The Middlebury Campus

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ZEITGEIST 2023

Zeitgeist 5.0: The spirit of the times, recalibrating our lives at Middlebury

By RYAN McELROY & EVAN WEISS
Zeitgeist Directors

"The Middlebury experience" is often referred to by students, alumni, faculty, parents and tour guides as the all-encompassing vision of student life. These four years are supposed to be a life-changing whirlwind of academic rigor, close friends, athletic victories and personal growth — all while surrounded by the idyllic fall foliage of rural Vermont. But what does this really mean? What truly defines our Middlebury experience?

For some, this year may have been defined by the hoax call about an active shooter in Davis Family Library, the Box Office breach or perhaps the removal of Nutella from dining halls. More likely, you will remember your time at Middlebury for each of the surprising, exciting and frustrating moments, the everyday victories and disappointments that largely determine this school's spirit and mood: its zeitgeist.

The theme of this year's Zeitgeist — The Campus' fifth-annual campus-wide survey — is recalibrating. We asked questions to explore the abundance of Middlebury experiences at this precise moment in time, to learn about how after a year of Covid-19 pandemic-to-endemic transition your attitudes reverted, changed or pivoted entirely.

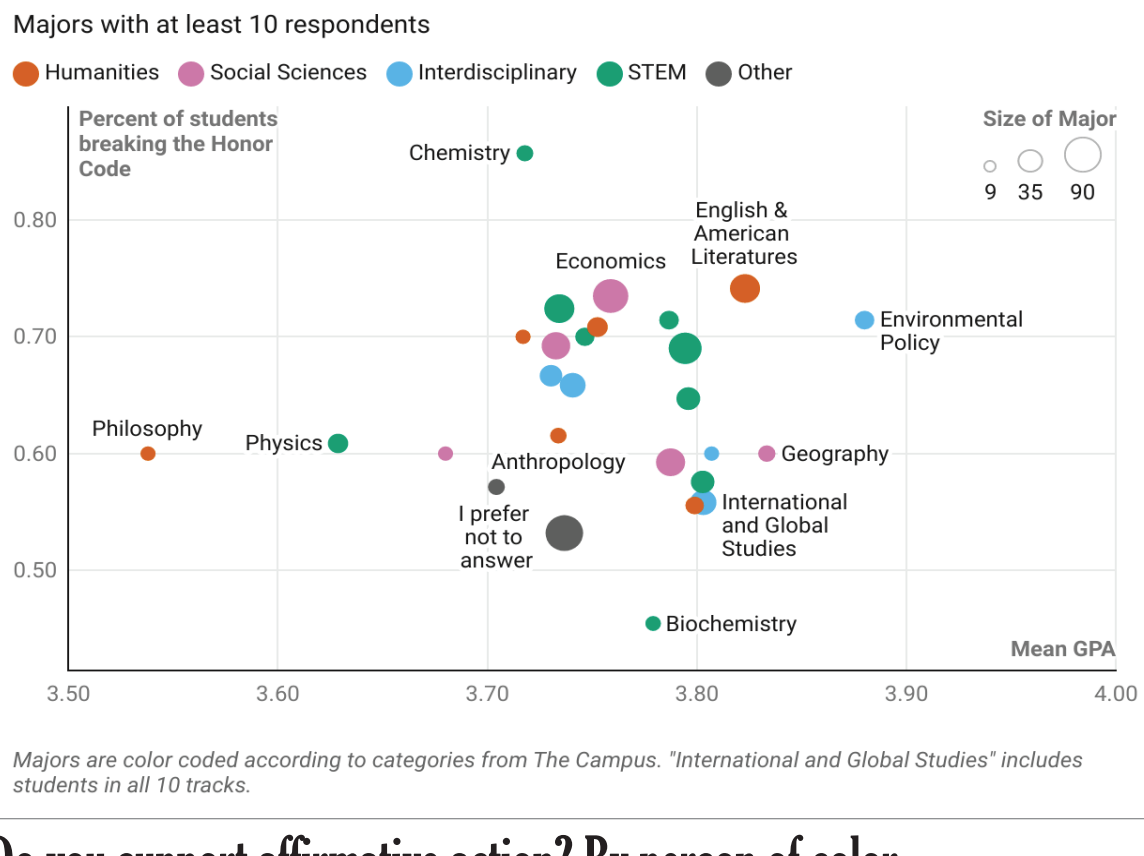
Zeitgeist 5.0 posed many of the same questions of past Zeitgeist surveys, covering topics ranging from academics to institutional resources to sex and love culture at Middlebury. Have you ever broken the Honor Code? What does your ideal relationship look like? Are you happy?

We also asked new questions in hopes of capturing an honest picture of college life: What is your GPA? If you could choose again, would you still enroll at Middlebury? Do you support affirmative action? We strived to discover the aspects of Middlebury life that do not show up in admissions pamphlets or on campus tours.

Lastly, we asked about your outlook on the college experience: What do you want your impact on Middlebury to be? You told us that you want to build community and make opportunities more accessible. You want to be loved, spread joy and survive your time here. You want to bring back pre-Covid traditions and you want to make new ones. At least one of you wants to "Radicalize Rich Kids and Find Meaning."

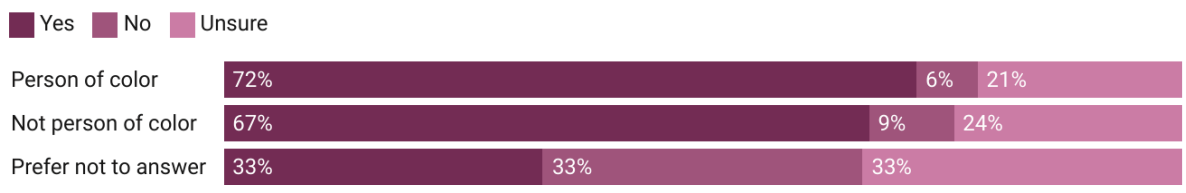
Read this year's Zeitgeist for a glimpse into the true desires, reflections and resentments of your fellow students. These pages will not give a complete picture of the Middlebury experience, but we hope they will capture a snapshot of life here, if only for a moment.

Major by mean GPA and Honor Code violation

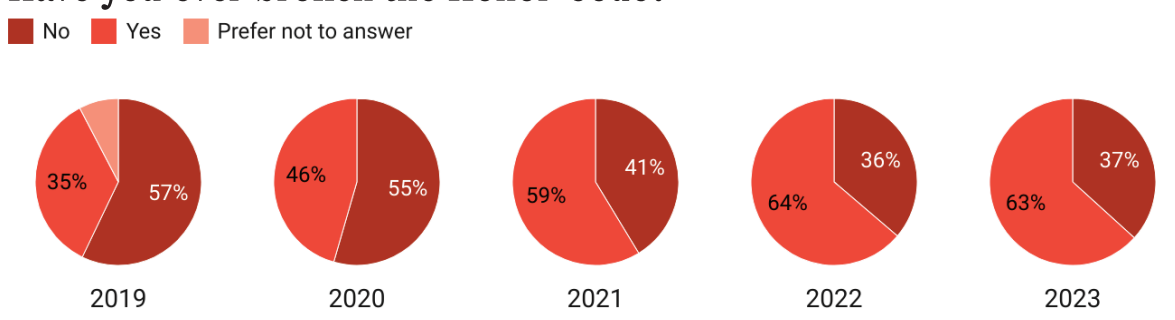


Majors are color coded according to categories from The Campus. "International and Global Studies" includes students in all 10 tracks.

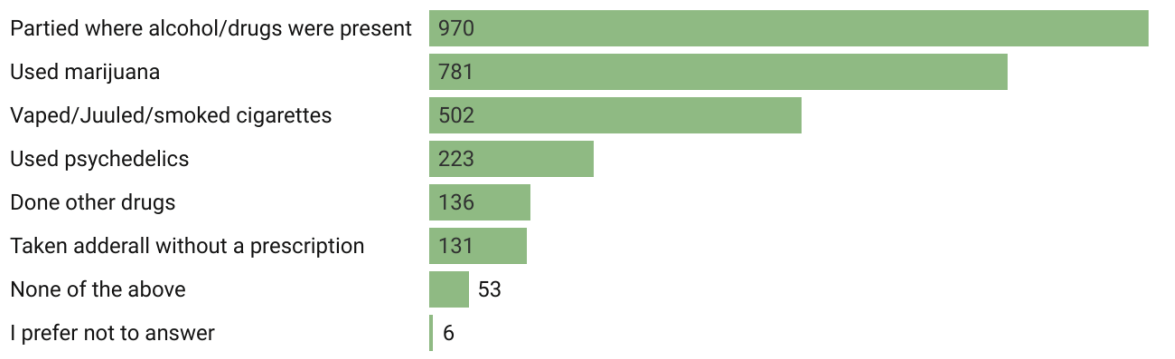
Do you support affirmative action? By person of color



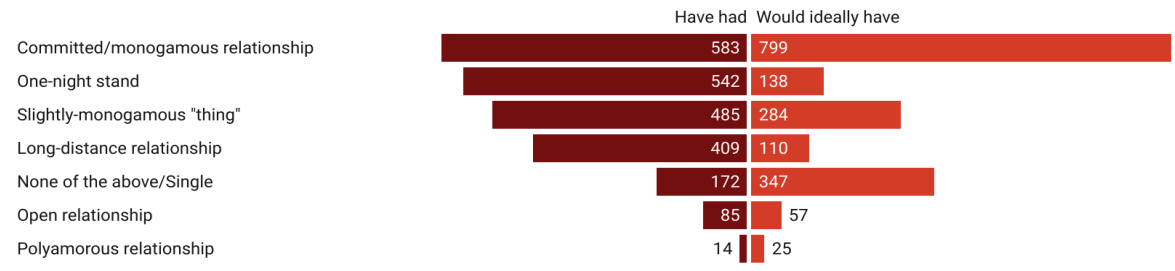
Have you ever broken the Honor Code?



At Middlebury, I have:



What types of relationships have you had and would you ideally have?



Respondents reported a 3.77 average GPA. But what major has the highest?

By WILLIAM REED & SAM ROUBIN
Layout Editor & Contributing Writer

Among Zeitgeist participants, the most common major was environmental studies (all tracks combined) comprising 10.5% of all respondents, followed by economics, neuroscience and computer science comprising 9.8%, 7.6% and 6.8% of respondents, respectively. Roughly 13% of respondents had not yet declared a major. One quarter of respondents reported being double majors.

The Campus asked "What is your GPA?" in this year's Zeitgeist, marking the first time a question about academic performance was included in the survey.

On average, respondents reported maintaining above an A- average, with an overall mean GPA of 3.77 on a 4.0 scale. This average did not include respondents for the class of 2026.5, as students in this class have not yet received official grades for a full semester.

Among majors with at least 10 respondents, philosophy majors reported the lowest average GPA at 3.54, while environmental policy majors reported the highest at 3.88. For most majors, between 50% and 70% of students reported breaking the Honor Code. Chemistry had the highest reported rate of Honor Code violations at 86%, while biochemistry reported the lowest rate at 45%.

There was minimal variation in average GPA across class years, as all individual class year GPA averages fell within one tenth of a point of the student body average. The class of 2026 had the lowest mean GPA at 3.72, while the class of 2025.5 had the highest at 3.82.

The 2022-2023 academic year has brought with it high levels of academic Honor Code violations, with figures similar to last year's results.

Over the last five years, there has been an upward trend in the proportion of students reporting having broken the Honor Code with a roughly 28 percentage point increase over this time period. This year, 63% of respondents reported breaking the Honor Code, compared to 64% last year, 59% in 2021, 46% in 2020 and

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WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR IMPACT ON MIDDLEBURY TO BE?

Students consider how they hope to shape their community — or not

By MAGGIE REYNOLDS
Senior Local Editor

Alexander Hamilton sings in Lin-Manuel Miranda's beloved musical "Hamilton," "Legacy. What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see."

To wrap up this year's Zeitgeist survey, after covering topics from GPA by major to alcohol/drug use and mental health, we had students answer an open-ended question — what do you want your impact on Middlebury to be?

Students responded with a wide range of answers, from "I want to be remembered as a kind face" to "leave Midd better than it was when I came" and "get through here and move on."

Of the 683 students who responded to the final question, 30%, or 202 responses, related to building community and fostering positive relationships with others. A number of students expressed a desire to make connections among people and contribute to a sense of community at Middlebury — "to bring people together and create a positive, engaged, vibrant community," one student wrote.

Others discussed wanting to make people around them feel safe, loved and supported. Ten students discussed leaving an impact on professors and/or becoming well-respected alumni of the college. "I'd like to be a part of this community for years to come," someone wrote.

Another large group of 167 students, or 24% of respondents, referenced pushing for reform to the Middlebury community in their responses. Fourteen students cited making Middlebury a more sustainable, environmentally conscious place.

A number of other students spoke of shaping the school to be more inclusive, specifically referencing inclusivity for students of color, low-income students, transgender students and students with disabilities. "Make it a safer and more welcoming community and space,"

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ZEITGEIST

Zeitgeist findings continue on Page 2.

See how students answered questions about academics, social life, health, politics and more.

View our full Zeitgeist findings online at go/zg.

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LOCAL

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By ANNE THOMPSON

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By ASA STONE

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By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The urgent need for Migrant Justice
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By MIRACLE TAPIA

Jazz great Abdullah Ibrahim returns to Middlebury
By BRETT SORBO

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SPORTS

Trifecta of Middlebury teams win NESCAC Championships
By JACK McGUIRE

Women's lacrosse advances to NESCAC semifinals
By ETHAN VASHEL

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ZEITGEIST

Who took this year's survey?

By EVAN WEISS & RYAN McELROY
Zeitgeist Directors

The 1,112 students who completed The Campus' fifth annual Zeitgeist survey answered 60 questions across eight different categories, ranging from Academics and the Institution to Sex and Love.

Out of the approximately 2,550 students enrolled at Middlebury this spring, 44% of degree-seeking undergraduates were represented in the survey. This marked a slight increase from the 43% response rate in both the 2021 and 2022 Zeitgeist surveys. Some demographic categories do not match official college statistics, which may be due to factors including over or underrepresentation in the responses to the survey and differences in the reporting methods of the college.

Participants were roughly equally distributed across class years. The class of 2026 registered the highest number of currently enrolled respondents at 213, while the class of 2026.5 was the smallest class at 51 responses.

Notably, 33 respondents said their intended graduating year was 2022.5 or earlier, while the class of 2023 had the largest gap between students who matriculated with the class and those currently still in the class. According to college estimates, only 420 seniors will graduate this spring, compared to the typical class size of more than 600. One explanation for this trend is how the Covid-19 pandemic led many enrolled students to take a gap semester or year. This also helps contextualize the unusually large class of 2023.5, which has more than doubled in size since entering Middlebury, according to both Zeitgeist responses and college projections.

Of the 1,112 students who completed the survey, 81% identified as white, followed by 11% Asian, 8% Hispanic or Latino, 5% Black or African American and 1% Middle Eastern or North African. Less than 1% of respondents identified as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander and American Indian or Alaskan Native. This question asked students to select all options they identified with, so the percentages total more than 100%.

According to the 2022–2023 Middlebury Enrollment Profile — using data compiled by the college that does not allow students to self-identify in more than one category — 56% of Middlebury students are white, 12% Hispanic/Latino, 7% Asian, 5% Black or African-American and 7% as two or more races. Twelve percent of students are international students, who are counted in one category as "nonresidents."

For the first time ever, we included the question "Do you identify as a person of color?" to allow students to self-identify and to facilitate easier breakdowns in other sections. Twenty-four percent answered "yes," a notable difference from the 34% who selected an identity other than white in the previous question.

Fifty-four percent of respondents identified as cisgender female, representing the majority of Zeitgeist participants and a slightly higher proportion than the 53% of students so identified by the college. Thirty-nine percent identified as cisgender male in the survey as compared to the 47% identified by the college. Five percent identified as non-binary.

Thirty-seven percent of respondents agreed with the question "Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer or questioning?" compared to over 40% who answered similarly in last year's survey. This year 59% responded "No," and 4% preferred not to answer.

Forty-four percent of cisgender female respondents identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer or questioning, while only 19% of cisgender males identified that way.

Over 90% of those who identified as non-binary, transgender female, transgender male or responded with "These options don't define me" also identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer or questioning.

This year, 14% of students told us that they currently or have previously identified as a student with a disability at Middlebury, in line with the 13% in the 2022 survey.

Forty-one percent of respondents this year answered that they receive financial aid at Middlebury, 10 percentage points less than the college's reported number of students receiving financial aid. Fifty-eight percent of Zeitgeist respondents said they are not on financial aid, a slight increase from those who answered this way last year.

Three out of every 10 respondents hailed from New England (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts), once again the most represented region in the survey. Close behind was the Mideast (New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania) with 22% of respondents. The next highest was 15% from the Far West (Washington, Oregon and California), followed by 9% from the Southeast. Every other U.S. region was less than 6% of participants and 9% were from outside the country.

Representing almost half of responses were students from suburban areas, while about one-third designated their hometowns as urban and 19% as rural. This marks a slight shift from last year, where 50% of respondents said they came from suburban areas and only 30% from urban areas.

A slight majority of Zeitgeist respondents reported attending public high schools, while 30% attended private or parochial schools, 11% boarding schools and 6% charter or magnet schools. These numbers are nearly identical to last year's Zeitgeist, where 52% responded with public school, 31% private, 11% boarding and 5% charter. In both surveys, homeschooled students and those who preferred not to answer made up less than 1% of respondents.

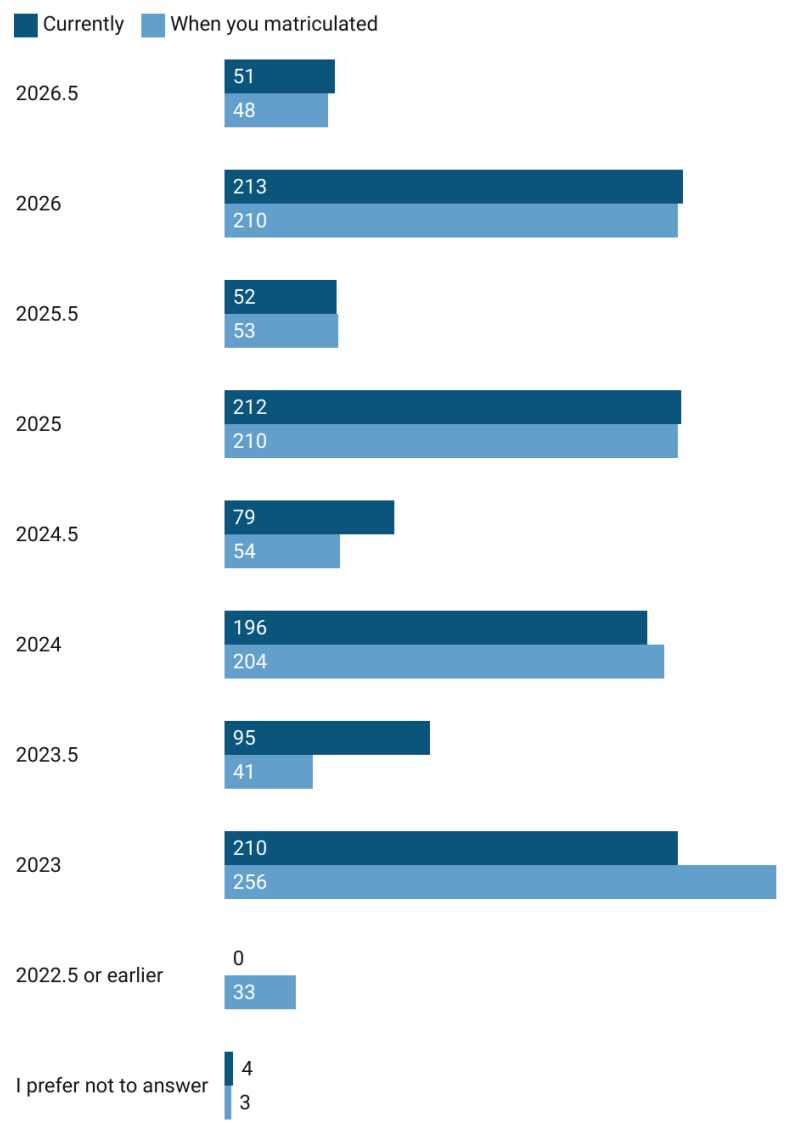
Of Zeitgeist respondents, 12% identified as first-generation students, compared to 10% from last year. Nearly 9% of students have at least one parent that went to Middlebury.

Although the college reports that 27% of students are varsity athletes, only 18% of this year's participants identified themselves as such. This year marked a slight increase from 2022 and 2021, where 17% and 15% of respondents respectively said they were varsity athletes.

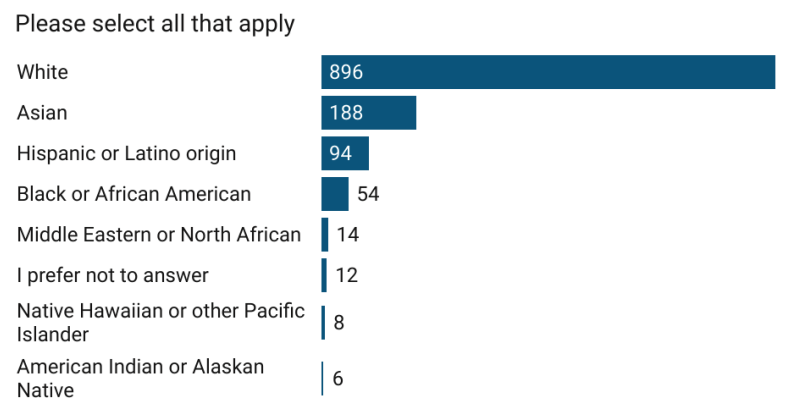
Fewer people of color were varsity athletes than their peers. While 9% of those who identified as a person of color also were varsity athletes, 20% of those who did not identify as a person of color were varsity athletes.

Varsity athletes reported attending public schools (56%) and private day schools (32%) at slightly higher rates than non-athletes, while only 2% went to magnet or charter schools compared to 7% of their peers.

What is your intended graduating class year?

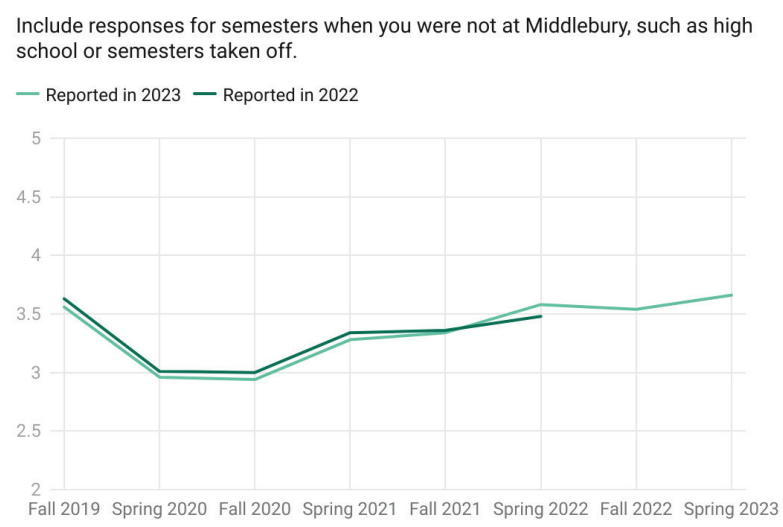


Which of the following best describes you?

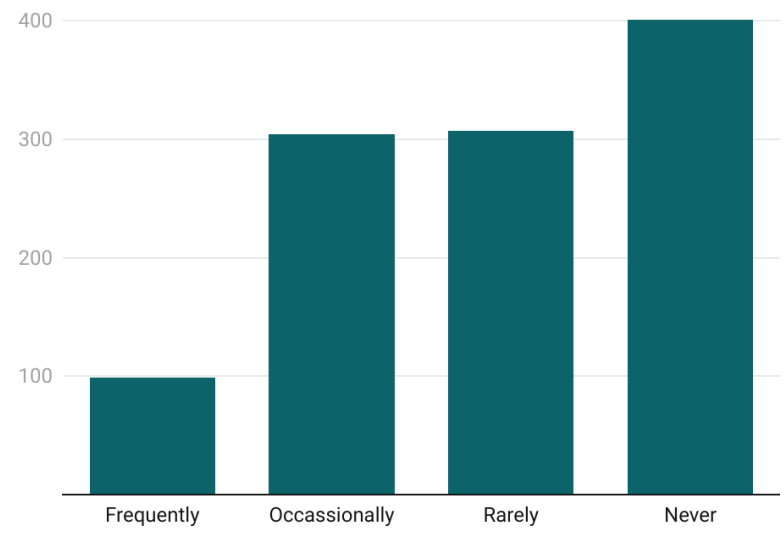


SAFETY AND WELLNESS

Rate your mental health in each of the following semesters, with 5 being best.



Do you find yourself using alcohol or drugs to cope with stress?



Are you comfortable using the athletic center facilities at Middlebury? By gender identity

By RAIN JI
Managing Editor

Content Warning: This section asks questions about mental health and sexual assault.

Last year, we asked "Are you happy?" for the first time and found out that just under one-quarter of respondents said they were not. This year, 83% of respondents reported feeling happy, an increase from last year's 75%.

Additionally, the percentage of respondents who reported being happy was generally the same across class years, with the highest percentage being 88% of Senior Feb respondents and the lowest percentage being 78% of current first-year respondents.

In terms of demographics, similar to the results from last year, 85% of white-identifying respondents reported being happy, higher than any other racial or ethnic identity. Students who identified as Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) said "no" to the "Are you happy?" question more than any other racial or ethnic group, with only 57% answering "yes," though this is still a significant increase from last year's 41%. (The Zeitgeist 4.0 survey went live just after the Muslim Student Association prayer space was desecrated last year, potentially influencing last year's results for students identifying as MENA since Islam is the predominant religion in the region.)

Answers to the question "How often do you cry?" also offered insights into respondents' experiences on campus. Sixty percent of respondents reported crying at least once a month, and only 5% of respondents reported never crying.

Sixty-one percent of respondents said that they have never used counseling services at Middlebury. This year, the college welcomed a new director of counseling after the position had been vacant for over three months. In addition to traditional counseling services, the college also has several other options for students such as the Let's Talk program, a resource through which students can access informal and confidential 25-minute consultations with a counselor and the new therapy dog, Stella, in the counseling center.

When asked "Do you find yourself using alcohol or drugs to cope with stress?," 36% of respondents reported using them either "frequently" or "occasionally." Overall, 36% of respondents said they have never used alcohol or drugs to cope with stress.

In October 2022, FLORA Cannabis opened in the town of Middlebury following Vermont's legalization of retail cannabis sales, although marijuana remains illegal on college property because the college receives federal funding. Recently, students have also explored the possibility of an on-campus bar as an addition to the crowded nightlife scene in town. The effects of the increased accessibility of alcohol and drugs to students remains unclear.

Sixty-eight percent of respondents said that they have struggled with their relationship to food or exercise during their time at Middlebury, a slight decrease from last year's 71%. Breaking down the results by gender identity, fewer cisgender male respondents reported struggling with food and exercise than students who indicated other gender identities, while an overwhelming majority of cisgender female, transgender male, transgender female and non-binary respondents reported struggling with food and exercise at Middlebury. Fifty-nine percent of respondents who reported "yes" to struggling with food or exercise said that the culture around food or exercise at Middlebury has exacerbated this struggle.

Eating at Middlebury after the dining halls close for the night has been increasingly difficult as a result of recent understaffing crises at The Grille, Crossroads and MiddXpress. Middlebury remains one of two colleges in the NESCAC without an in-residence, licensed nutritionist or dietitian — despite a previous proposal to hire a nutritionist at the Parton Health Center.

Additionally, many more cisgender male respondents said they felt comfortable using athletic center facilities than did respondents of other gender identities. This year, organizations such as Uplift have called for a more inclusive workout culture on campus. Some of Middlebury's athletic facilities have special hours dedicated to women or non-binary people, such as the climbing wall.

On average, students ranked their mental health as the best in spring 2023. They ranked their mental health as the worst in spring 2020, when Covid-19 led to many schools adopting an entirely online or asynchronous mode. Mental health of respondents has been increasing on average each semester since spring 2021. By spring 2022, the average mental health of respondents had increased to a similar level to that of pre-pandemic semesters.

Respondents in both years' surveys offered similar assessments of their mental health across different semesters. Regardless of their stages in life or physical locations, students felt the impact of Covid-19 on their social and academic experiences.

Nearly 200 respondents — 18% — reported being survivors of sexual assault, a decrease by six percentage points from 2022. When asked if this occurred on Middlebury's campus or at a college program, 51% of question respondents who said they were survivors of sexual assault said "yes." Among them, only 18% chose to report the incident and 56% of those who submitted reports were unsatisfied with how their complaints were handled.

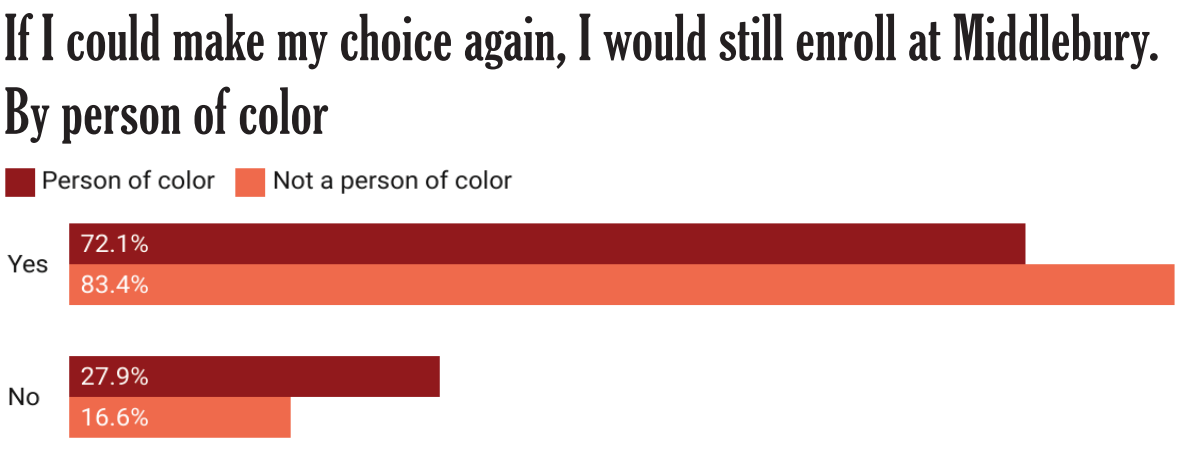
Those that did not report their experiences of assault attributed this decision to various factors, including being unsure if their experience was worthy of reporting, not wanting to hurt someone's reputation, and the mental and bureaucratic difficulty of the reporting process. Over two-thirds of Zeitgeist respondents in the Resources section reported that the Title IX Office did not apply to them, and for those who rated the office, 22% were somewhat or very dissatisfied with its help.

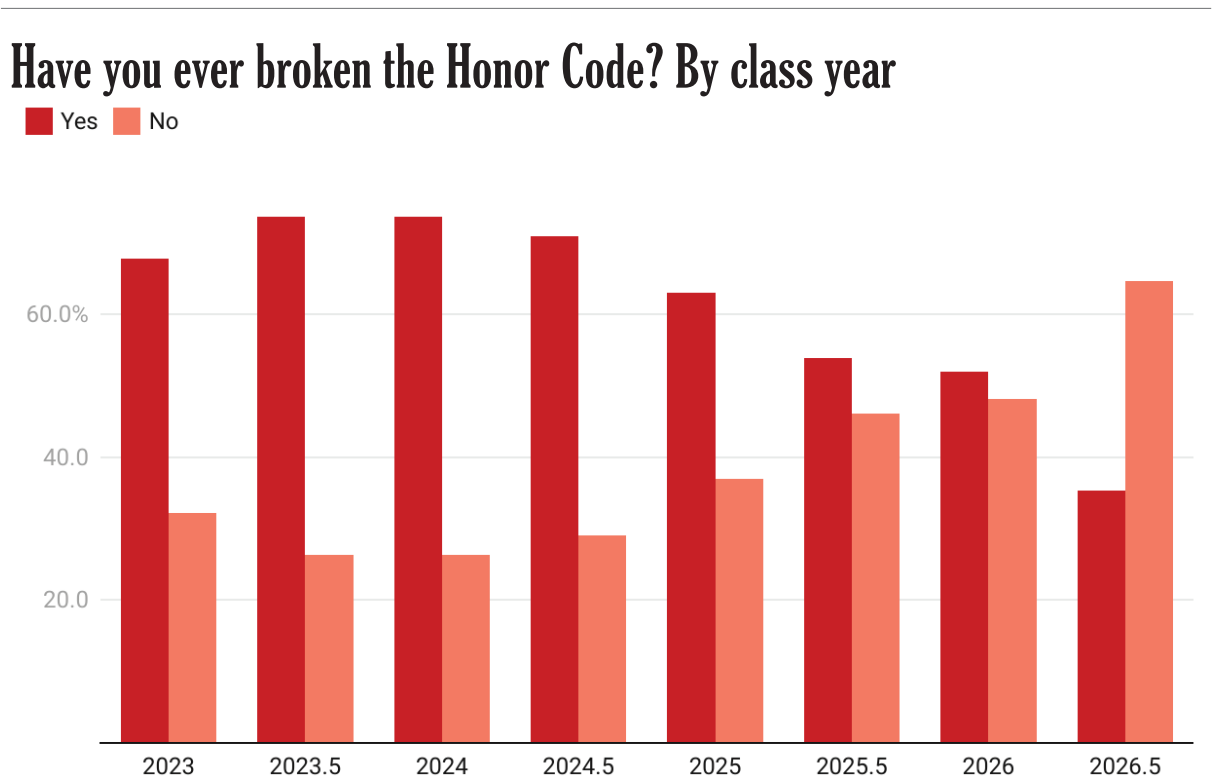
Students have worked to organize events that raise awareness about sexual assault and create spaces for survivors to share their stories. "It Happens Here 2023" was held on campus on April 27 to raise awareness to the frequency and severity of sexual violence on college campuses.

We also asked whether students have had sexual experiences that left them feeling uncomfortable. Forty percent of respondents to the question have had a sexual experience that made them feel uncomfortable. Furthermore, 53% of respondents said that they avoid people on campus due to personal sexual experiences or the experiences of friends.

The college no longer requires Covid-19 testing or publishes data on case numbers on campus, although dining halls continue to offer self-test toolkits for students. Seventy-five percent of respondents said that they had tested positive for Covid-19 at some point, with most having tested positive only once.

ZEITGEIST





ACADEMICS

Respondents reported a 3.77 average GPA. But what major has the highest?

Continued from Page 1

35% in 2019.

Students in younger classes reported that they break the Honor Code less — 35% of respondents in the class of 2026.5 said "yes" to breaking the Honor Code compared to 74% in the classes of 2023.5 and 2024 reporting that they have broken the Honor Code at least once.

This year, the most common violation was using unauthorized aid — such as translators, SparkNotes and aid from peers — followed by cheating on tests. While the top two types of violations remained similar to last year's figures, respondents could also select a new category of violation this year — the unauthorized use of A.I. tools like ChatGPT — which was the third most common violation.

About half of respondents were able to get into all of the classes they wanted to take. However, the ability to get into desired classes varied by class year, with younger classes having more difficulty enrolling in desired courses.

Respondents from the classes of 2026 and 2026.5 were less likely to get into the majority of their desired classes than respondents overall. Although less successful in registration than respondents overall, first-year Feb respondents were 11% more likely to get into all of their desired classes than their fall-admit counterparts.

However, only 3% of respondents from the class of 2026 were unable to get into any of their desired classes, compared to 8% of first-year Feb respondents and 6% of all respondents.

Younger classes have historically had more trouble getting into desired classes because students with a higher amount of credits get priority time slots during course registration.

The question "If I could make my choice again, I would still enroll at Middlebury" has not been included in the Zeitgeist survey since 2019. This year, 80% of respondents said they would enroll again. By comparison, in 2019, 88% of respondents indicated that they "somewhat agree," "agree," or "strongly agree" with this same statement.

On average, respondents who did not identify as a person of color were 11 percentage points more likely to say they would re-enroll at Middlebury if given the option.

SEX AND LOVE

By CLAIRE YANG
Journalism Fellow

Love is in the air... but where? This year's Zeitgeist asked the burning questions about your romantic satisfaction, ideal versus real relationships and where you all find your dates. In 2023 students found anything from a slightly-monogamous thing to a soulmate on a newly pandemic-restriction-free campus, while others have called for more "fake weddings."

Overall, Middlebury students are happier with the college's romantic scene than last year. Eleven percent of respondents for this question reported being extremely satisfied, compared to only 9% in last year's survey. The percent of students somewhat or extremely dissatisfied with the romantic scene has also changed, decreasing to 39% from 44% last year. Nearly three of every 10 respondents said they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

Middlebury students' romantic lives seem to involve more commitment than last year. Since coming to Middlebury, 52% of survey respondents reported having committed, monogamous relationships, an increase from last year's 47%. Fewer students indicated having one-night stands and open relationships, with the least common option being a polyamorous relationship.

However, the gap between students' romantic experiences and their ideal relationships persisted this year. Seventy-two percent of respondents would ideally be in a committed, monogamous relationship, which is 19 percentage points greater than the number of respondents who have actually engaged in such relationships.

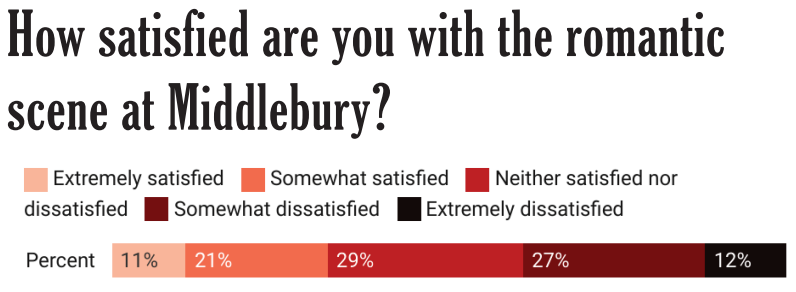
The difference between ideal and experienced is the opposite for other types of relationships: 44% of respondents have been in a slightly-monogamous "thing," but only 26% selected that as their ideal type of relationship.

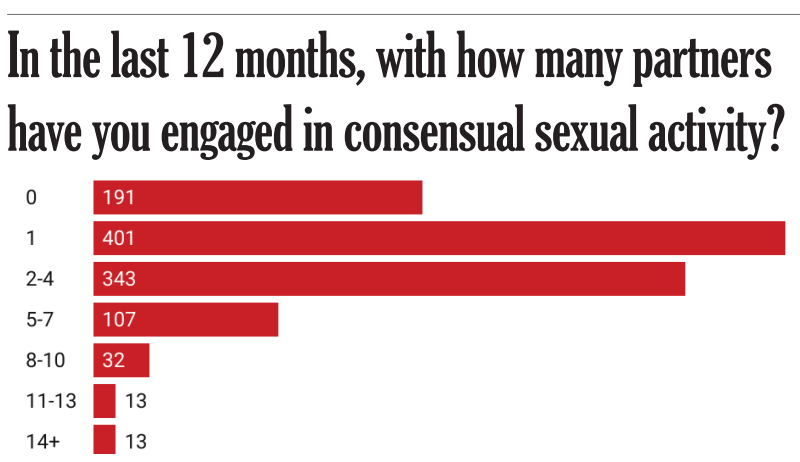
Students' reported reasons to pursue romantic encounters may explain the difference between romantic ideals and experiences. Of respondents who answered this question, 76% indicated companionship as their reason for finding romantic partners, making it the top driver for romantic pursuits. Sex, non-sexual intimacy and loneliness were other common reasons students reported for seeking these encounters.

A higher percent of students reported having sex than previous years. In this year's survey, 83% of respondents indicated engaging in consensual sexual activity, a small increase from last year's 81%. Consistent with the increase in romantic commitment, students are having fewer sexual partners. More than one-third of respondents have had only one sexual partner in the past 12 months, and fewer respondents reported having more than five sexual partners than last year.

Similar to the previous year, over half of the respondents have met romantic or sexual partners at a party or an in-person gathering. Since the onset of the pandemic, more students have had romantic encounters through classes, which 28% of respondents selected.

Overall, 21% of respondents describe their sexuality differently now than when they first came to Middlebury, lower than the 26% in last year's survey. This year's numbers are much higher for respondents currently identified as LGBQ+, however — over 40% of whom have changed how they described their sexuality, compared to only 7% of non-LGBQ+ students. Notably, the breakout question asks whether students identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer or questioning, while there is a different question for students to report their gender identity.





POLITICS

By DANIZA TAZABEKOVA
Journalism Fellow

Middlebury students overwhelmingly care about politics, with 78% of respondents saying "I care a lot about a wide range of issues" or "I care a lot about a few specific issues." Only 2% of respondents said "I don't care at all" and another 2% answered "I actively avoid thinking/talking about politics." This year's Zeitgeist generally matched the results of 2022, when 76% reported caring a lot about a wide range or a few specific issues. The past two years were lower than the over 80% of students who identified as caring a lot about politics in 2021.

Middlebury also leans very liberal, according to respondents' self-assessments. Almost 1,000 of the 1,061 students who responded to this question described their political views as at five or below on a scale of zero to 10, with zero being the most liberal and 10 being the most conservative. Like last year, most students placed themselves somewhere from zero to three, making the 92 moderate but left-leaning students who placed themselves at a four seem conservative relative to the rest of campus. Only 7% of respondents identified as leaning conservative.

So what does Middlebury's politically active, predominantly liberal student body care the most about? For the fourth year in a row, Middlebury students ranked climate change as the most pressing issue today. More than 400 students responded with "climate change," followed by "gun violence/gun control" with 113 responses and "mental health" with 23 responses.

Many respondents listed capitalism as a pressing issue, especially noting its connections to race, immigration, sexuality and the environment. One respondent focused directly on the "oppression of the poor" and "wealth inequality" as related to capitalist practices. Another respondent even said destroying capitalism would save the world from implosion.

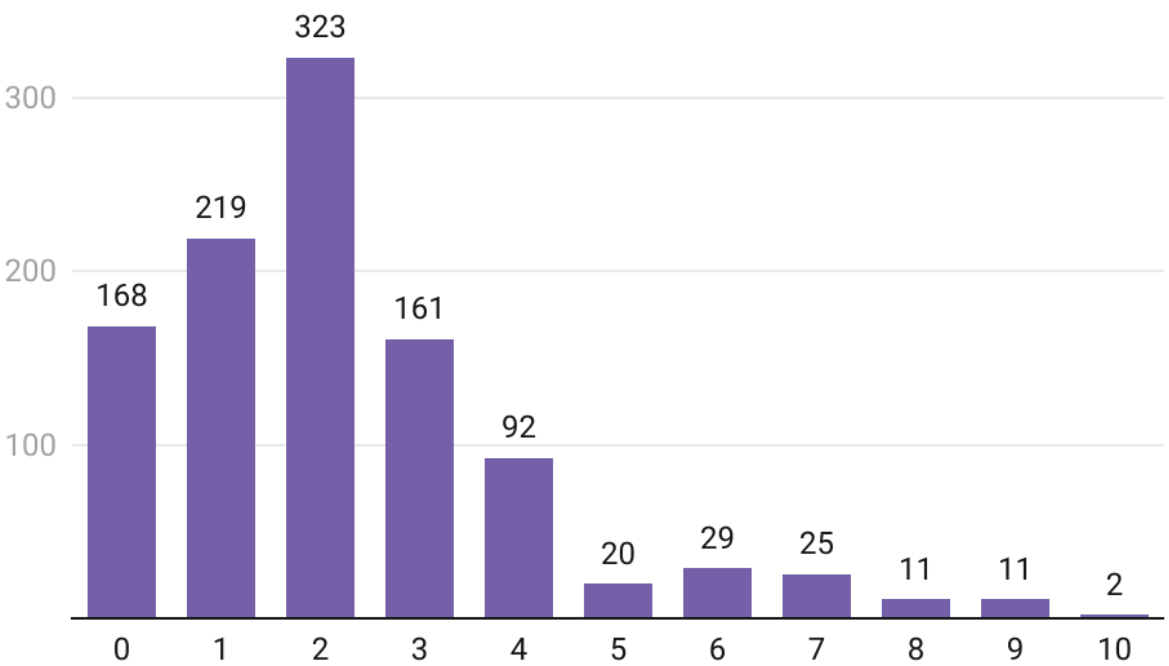
In addition to capitalism, political polarization was another common answer. Tribalism, the "hard lines and animosity between political parties" and misinformation were other responses that reflected the growing political partisanship within American politics. One respondent said that polarization "obstructs our ability to address pressing issues." Similar to last year, some students cited "rising right-wing ideology" and "leftist media dominance" as pressing issues.

Other responses included the Russian invasion of Ukraine and "democratic backsliding" in the United States and abroad. International relations, security and threats from China and Russia were also concerns students mentioned.

Unlike last year, there were no responses related to Covid-19, mask policies or the impact of the pandemic. Though no one expressed worries about illness, many students did share other personal concerns such as apathy, superiority complexes, staying happy, acceptance and a lack of pride in their work. Multiple responses specified the lack of a middle ground between people of different backgrounds. Some respondents also cited homework, sleep, taxes and who to hang out with as their biggest issue. One person said they were most concerned by "the long lunch lines at Ross."

Other issues that appeared in the responses included fake news and misinformation, xenophobia, queer oppression, the rapid growth of artificial intelligence, white supremacy, parental rights, moral ambiguity and procrastination.

A majority of respondents, or 68%, support affirmative action, specified in the question as race- and identity-conscious college admissions. Nine percent of respondents indicated they do not support affirmative action, while the remaining 23% of respondents said they were unsure. Notably, students of color more frequently indicated support for affirmative action than respondents who did not identify as people of color. Given the Supreme Court's upcoming decisions in affirmative action cases against Harvard University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, institutions of higher education have been anticipating the implications of a change to their admissions practices. Middlebury joined 32 liberal arts colleges in signing an amicus curiae brief in support of the legality of an admissions process that considers race as one among many factors.



ZEITGEIST

RESOURCES

By SARAH FURTADO
Journalism Fellow

When asked about resources in this year's Zeitgeist, more respondents were satisfied with the majority of resources on campus compared to last year.

Among resources, the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life, the Anderson Freeman Resource Center (AFC) and the Disability Resource Center (DRC) received the most positive feedback from students who were familiar with those offices. For the second year in a row, the AFC received the highest percentage of satisfaction among respondents familiar with the resource, with over two-thirds of respondents either very or somewhat satisfied by its assistance.

However, students are still not satisfied overall with the support systems Middlebury offers. Only a third of the listed resources received a majority of positive ratings from respondents who knew what they were or said they were applicable to their lives.

In general, resources that are used by more students received worse ratings than those used by fewer students.

The resources that had the highest percentages of satisfied respondents are some of those that do not apply to the most amount of students. Some little-used resources broke this trend, however, including the Civil Rights and Title IX Office, which has only been used by 28% of respondents but received largely neutral or dissatisfied ratings. On the other hand, only three resources that have been used by the majority of answering students received overall positive ratings — Parton Center for Health and Wellness, the CTLR and the CCI.

ResLife, followed by MCAB, the CCI and Parton were the most widely-used resources. The resource least familiar to respondents was the Compass Mentor program, with 32% of respondents not knowing what it is. Compass is a first-year advising program that began in fall 2021.

Forty-one percent of respondents reported being on financial aid, with over half of these students also responding that they felt satisfied with their financial aid package. This is a slight decrease from last year, when 43% of respondents said they received need-based aid. In both years the college reported 51% of the student body receiving financial aid.

Only 14% of respondents for whom this question applies answered that they felt "very dissatisfied" with their financial aid package. The satisfaction with financial aid, however, does not extend to Student Financial Services, with just over half of respondents familiar with the resource giving that resource a neutral or negative rating.

Approximately one in two respondents had a car on campus, a number that increased two percentage points from last year.

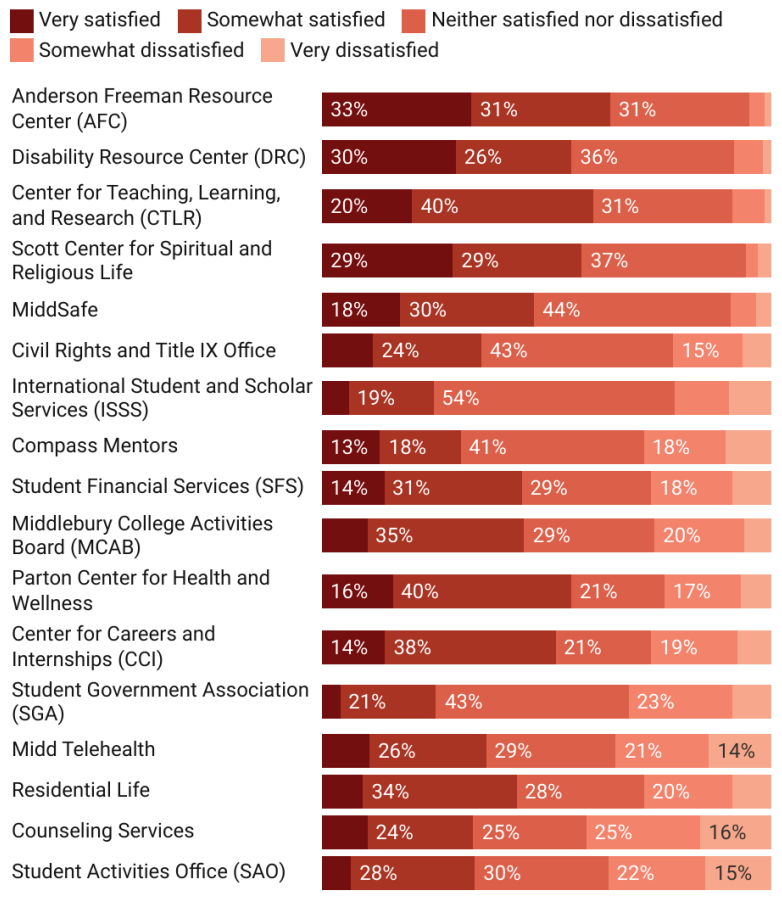
Thirty-nine percent of students receiving financial aid had a car at Middlebury, while 57% of those not receiving financial aid had a car.

The number of respondents who feel safe interacting with PubSafe has increased from 61% last year to 67% this year. Twenty-three percent of students this year felt unsure about interacting with PubSafe, a higher percentage than the 10% who did not feel safe in these interactions.

Students identifying as a person of color less frequently reported feeling safe around Public Safety than those who did not identify as a person of color by a difference of 18 percentage points.

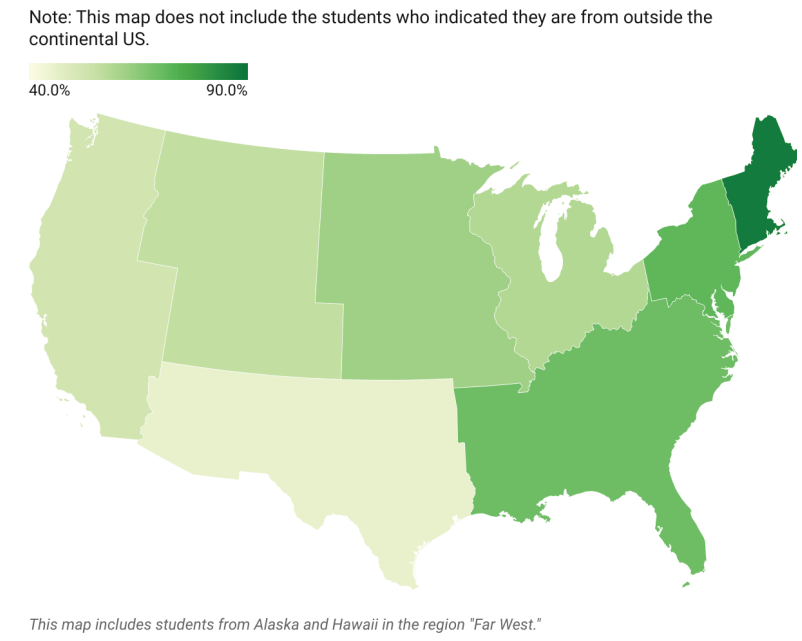
There was a significant difference in how respondents with different financial aid statuses felt interacting with Public Safety. Twelve percent of respondents receiving financial aid said "no" to the questions about feeling safe while only 8% of students not receiving financial aid responded similarly, a comparable proportion to last year. Seven out of 10 respondents not receiving financial aid reported feeling safe in these situations, while about six out of 10 students on financial aid also said they felt safe.

How satisfied are you with the following resources at Middlebury?


Very satisfied
Somewhat satisfied
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
Somewhat dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied
Anderson Freeman Resource Center (AFC) 33% 31% 31%
Disability Resource Center (DRC) 30% 26% 36%
Center for Teaching, Learning, and Research (CTLR) 20% 40% 31%
Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life 29% 29% 37%
MiddSafe 18% 30% 44%
Civil Rights and Title IX Office 24% 43% 15%
International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) 19% 54%
Compass Mentors 13% 18% 41% 18%
Student Financial Services (SFS) 14% 31% 29% 18%
Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) 35% 29% 20%
Parton Center for Health and Wellness 16% 40% 21% 17%
Center for Careers and Internships (CCI) 14% 38% 21% 19%
Student Government Association (SGA) 21% 43% 23%
Midd Telehealth 26% 29% 21% 14%
Residential Life 34% 28% 20%
Counseling Services 24% 25% 25% 16%
Student Activities Office (SAO) 28% 30% 22% 15%

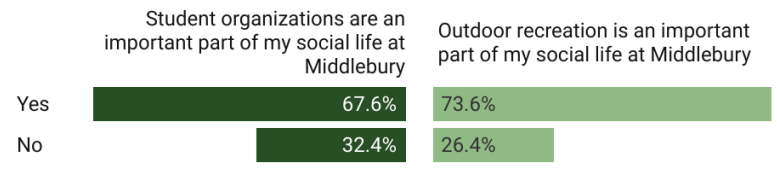
SOCIAL LIFE

Percentage of students who indicated family has visited them at Middlebury this year by home region:

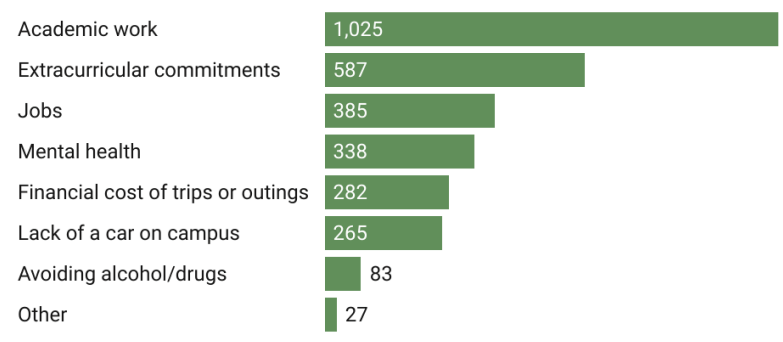


This map includes students from Alaska and Hawaii in the region "Far West."

Relative Importance of Student Organizations and Outdoor Recreation in Students' Lives


Student organizations are an important part of my social life at Middlebury
Outdoor recreation is an important part of my social life at Middlebury
Yes 67.6% 73.6%
No 32.4% 26.4%

What, if anything, prevents you from spending time with friends?



By LILY JONES
Senior News Editor

This year, we asked students about various aspects of social life at Middlebury, ranging from substance use to outdoor recreation and student organizations to time management and jobs.

Drugs and alcohol remain a part of most students' social lives, with 91% of respondents saying they drank alcohol and 70% saying they used marijuana at Middlebury. In addition, 45% of students have vaped or smoked cigarettes, 20% have used psychedelics and 12% have taken adderall without a prescription while in college.

On average, Febs are more likely to use drugs at Middlebury than other classes. In the class of 2023.5 and 2024.5, 26% and 19% of respondents had taken adderall without a prescription, respectively. These rates compared to 15% and 13% for respondents in the classes of 2023 and 2024, respectively. About one third of respondents in the class of 2024.5 have used psychedelics while at Middlebury, compared to 21% in the class of 2024. The results also suggest less drug use among younger classes at Middlebury: Only 54% of respondents in the class of 2026 reported using marijuana, while 77% and 87% of the classes of 2023 and 2023.5, respectively, had used the drug.

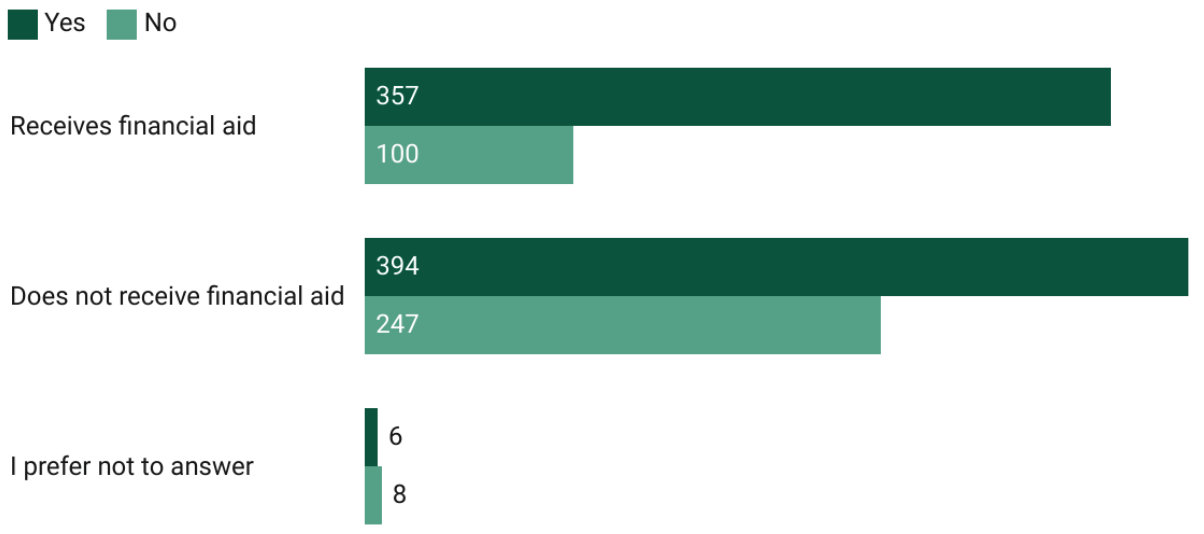
Consistent with previous years, 74% of respondents said that outdoor recreation is an important part of their social life at Middlebury. For the first time, we also asked if student organizations (including social houses and club sports) were an important part of respondents' social lives, to which 68% said "yes." Only 57% of respondents who identified as a person of color said outdoor recreation was important to their social life, compared to 79% of other respondents.

Also consistent with last year's findings, 67% of respondents have had family members visit them at Middlebury this academic year. Three-fourths of respondents not receiving financial aid had family members visit them, while only 57% on financial aid had family members visit them this year. Unsurprisingly, students from New England were very likely to have family visit them this year, while only one in every two students from the Rocky Mountain states, the Far West and the Southwest had family visit them.

An overwhelming majority of respondents said academic work prevented them from spending time with friends, followed by extracurricular commitments. Last year, students indicated mental health was the third most common factor, while this year jobs were the third most commonly selected reason, followed by mental health.

Most respondents balance jobs during school, with 68% of respondents having worked a paid job this academic year. Fifty-five percent of varsity athlete respondents have worked a paid job this year, while 71% of non-athletes have worked similar positions. Seventy-eight percent of students on financial aid worked a job this year, while 61% of respondents not on financial aid have done the same.

Have you worked a paid job this academic year? By financial aid status



WRAP UP

What do you want your impact on Middlebury to be?

Continued from Page 1

one student wrote.

Additional students whose responses focused on advocacy at Middlebury referenced rebuilding outdoor recreation programs, encouraging students to interact with local Vermonters and pushing the school to consider student needs first.

Answers referencing kindness as students' impact on Middlebury made up another 17% of the total responses. Students wrote of spreading joy, brightening peoples' days, making others laugh and reducing stress.

"I just want to be known as a friendly presence who made Midd a warmer place for others," one student wrote. Others spoke of being known as a kind face around campus and leaving Middlebury in a better place than when they started.

"I'd like to leave it better than I found it, but honestly considering I arrived during Covid that's not saying much," a response said.

While many students took a serious approach to the question, others wrote more comical responses. These ranged from "4 year Zeitgeist participator" to "make it more steezy" and being "a hot and funny presence."

A smaller percentage of students, 6%, made reference to leaving a legacy on the sports or extracurricular groups with which they are involved. "I want to be remembered in a small capacity for improving an organization for students to come," one wrote.

Others wrote of getting more funding for the club sports program, making student theater more accessible and creating a vibrant music scene on campus.

Another small cohort of students wrote responses about having an impact on the academic scene at Middlebury. These responses referenced making departments such as economics and math more inclusive for women, creating more opportunities for engineering at Middlebury and increasing the accessibility of creating your own major.

"I want to have played a part in meaningful academic findings and facilitate positive experiences for fellow students," one respondent said.

Among these largely positive responses about one's impact on Middlebury, a sizable group of 141 students, or 21% of respondents, had negative responses to the question.

Some of these students wrote that impact was a significant topic, and one they had not thought about much. "AH that's a huge question," one said.

Others wrote that they just wanted to survive while keeping their mental health intact, or graduate as soon as possible. "It feels like just staying afloat in the sea of social/academic stressors is enough of a goal!" someone responded.

Forty-six students responded with something along the lines of "I'm not sure" or "indifferent."

An additional number of students said they hope Middlebury has an impact on them, rather than them leaving a major legacy on the college.

"I want to be remembered. However, I want Middlebury to have more of an impact on me than I [on] it," one student wrote.

From chemistry to sociology, club tennis to SGA, Middlebury students leave deep and varied imprints on our college community. Students are the foundation of tradition, community and campus culture. This year's Zeitgeist results indicate that many students are focused on fostering positive relationships, spreading kindness and making Middlebury more sustainable.

Perhaps Lin-Manuel Miranda in "Hamilton" is right about one thing: Despite the four years students spend here, we will never fully witness our collective legacy on the Middlebury community.

MAY BRINGS COMEDY, MUSIC, FILM TO TOWN HALL THEATER

By ANNE THOMPSON
Contributing Writer

As the curtain falls on the spring semester, a variety of shows and performers are coming to Town Hall Theater in downtown Middlebury. Highlights include "Small Mouth Sounds," a comedy play performed by the Middlebury Acting Company, and a concert from The Grift, a band founded by two Middlebury College alumni.

"Small Mouth Sounds" will kick off performances for the month with four shows between May 4–7. A play that first debuted in the mid-2010s, the Middlebury Acting Company will portray the emotional journeys of six strangers at a silent retreat center in the forests of upstate New York.

The work features somewhat absurd humor as the characters struggle to connect with others and express their complex emotions while maintaining their vows of silence.

Ticket pricing for "Small Mouth Sounds" is based on a new, tiered model that is currently being tested by the Middlebury Acting Company to make theater performances more accessible to a larger audience, Lisa Mitchell, executive director at Town Hall Theater, told The Campus. Student tickets start at $17, and "Generous" tickets go up to $37, with several price options in between.

The first three performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. with the matinee on Sunday beginning at 2 p.m.

Town Hall Theater will also host two concerts in May, both connected to The Grift, a band founded by Middlebury alumni in 1999. The first performance will be from Neon Ramblers, a dance band created by members of The Grift, on May 11 at 7 p.m.

The Neon Ramblers play covers of 80s pop songs with a Bluegrass spin, which they call "80s Hits/Bluegrass Licks." Three members of the Neon Ramblers (and The Grift) are Middlebury alumni: Clint Bierman '97, Jeff Vallone '97.5 and Josh Panda '01, who recently received national attention on NBC's "American Song Contest," Mitchell said. Tickets can be purchased for $19 in advance and $24 at the door.

The following night, May 12, The Grift will perform at Town Hall Theater. The group mostly performs at weddings and clubs across Champlain Valley, but has also played in 25 different states and four countries. Their original songs are a mix of roots-rock, pop and jam, according to the Town Hall Theater website. Tickets are available for $29 in advance and $34 at the door.

A combo ticket that covers both the Neon Ramblers and The Grift shows can be purchased for $39, the website states.

Several film screenings will take place at Town Hall Theater during the month of May, as well.

On May 9 at 6 p.m., the theater will screen National Theater Live's broadcast of a live performance of a new version of Arthur Miller's familiar witch-hunt story "The Crucible," Mitchell said. Student tickets can be purchased for $10.

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival (MNFF) will screen the film "Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes" on May 10 at 7 p.m., a documentary about legendary jazz musician Max Roach. According to Mitchell, this will be the final installation in the "Larger than Life" screenings series that MNFF has put on at Town Hall Theater for several months. The series featured films that tell the life stories of figures who made a significant impact on modern culture. Tickets to see "Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes" are $14 in advance and $16 at the door.

The theater will also kick off its outdoor season on May 27 with a Mal Maiz concert at 6 p.m. at Lincoln Peak Vineyard in New Haven, Vt., Mitchell said. Mal Maiz is a Vermont-based Afro-Latino orchestra featuring Costa Rican multi-instrumentalist Maiz "Bruno" Vargas Sandoval. The group plays a mix of traditional cumbia, montuno, son corrido, puya and Afro-Caribbean sounds.

The Mal Maiz concert is open to all ages and families are encouraged to attend, as tickets for children under age 12 are free with the purchase of an adult ticket for $16 in advance or $20 at the door, the theater website states. Food and Lincoln Peak's award-winning wine will also be sold at the concert.

A key feature of Town Hall Theater is the Jackson Art Gallery, which is featuring the exhibit "Skylights" from mid-April through June 10. "Skylights" features Ripton-based artist Winslow Colwell's lightboxes, kite art, folded lanterns and paper constructions, the website states. The exhibit is free to the public.

Looking further into the summer, the theater will host several performances of Beethoven's "Fidelio" throughout the month of June, with an event to meet the Opera Company of Middlebury performers on May 21.

Mitchell said she believes the wide variety of shows and performances hosted by Town Hall Theater provide something for everyone in the greater Middlebury community to enjoy. "We like to say that every town needs a big room, and that essentially means that we are a performing arts venue and producer, but we also host things like the Middlebury Union High School Prom," she said. "We really look at all turns to partner with the college and the larger community."

Photo courtesy of Caleb Kenna

An aerial view of Town Hall Theater.

THE SECRET OF CREEMEE CULTURE: A DEEP DIVE INTO VERMONT'S SIGNATURE FROZEN TREAT

By ASA STONE
Staff Writer

Picture this: it is 3 p.m. on a Friday afternoon in May, and you're sprawled out on McCullough lawn with your friends. Classes are done for the week, and you are discussing weekend plans. It is one of those rare, but amazing, days when the clouds disappear, and the temperature creeps up to 70 degrees.

This is what you have been waiting for since the first snowfall in November: this is spring in Vermont. "We could go to the gorge!" one of your friends says. "We should get creemees," another suggests.

Here it comes, the classic debate: what is a creemee, anyway? Forget regional language differences like "soda" and "pop" — travel just 25 minutes west over the New York border and you'll have to order soft serve instead.

According to Charles Menard, owner of Canteen Creemee Company in Waitsfield, "the name creemee, to [my] understanding, really comes from our French-Canadian heritage."

A Vermont Public Radio feature from 2018 states that more than 16,000 French-Canadians had immigrated to Vermont by 1860, which might explain the origins of "creemee" and the term's local popularity.

The French word for cream, crème, could have created this persistent language difference, Menard said. "Maybe it was a little kid who said it wrong, or who knows, but creemee stuck," he added.

The history of the term is unclear to creemee makers in Addison County, too. But Menard and Kevin Archambeault, owners of Shiretown Marketplace in downtown Middlebury, agree that it all comes down to dairy.

"In Vermont, typically, and I know this isn't true across the board, when it's referred to as [a] creemee', it is usually the higher fat content [option]," Archambeault told The Campus.

Shiretown sells Hood's 10% creemee mix, which is the highest fat content you can get among the 3.5%, 5% and 10% fat options. This is important to Archambeault, who said he wanted to "stick true" to the classic idea of the high-fat Vermont creemee.

The building that Shiretown now occupies on College Street is remembered by a lot of the Middlebury community as Lyons Place, a business open from the 1970s–90s, that is integral to Middlebury's creemee history.

"Greg Lyons actually installed the first creemee machine here back in the early 1980s, and so everyone has sort of known this as a creemee spot, as well as a marketplace," Archambeault said.

Archambeault added that he believes that creemees have been an important part of Vermont and Middlebury culture for decades, and by opening up the creemee window at Shiretown marketplace, he is trying to make that past part of the future as well.

"When we opened the creemee stand, what people had kept on saying was that Middlebury had been in a creemee drought over last summer because this place had been let go in April of last year," Archambeault said of the previous business in Shiretown's current building, Shafer's Market & Deli.

The impact of temporary lack of creemees in Middlebury was evident in the community's excitement about Shiretown reviving the creemee window tradition, Archambeault said — "When we opened on August 19, 2022, we had no idea what the outpouring of the community would be, and it was absolutely insane. We did 384 creemees on the first day."

Archambeault grew up in upstate New York, but said he had never heard the term "creemee" until he crossed the Vermont border. "I still feel like everything in Southern Vermont was still referred to as soft serve. Bennington and Manchester didn't really use that terminology much," he explained.

Menard, on the other hand, grew up in Vermont and heard the term "creemee" used frequently. When he decided to open Canteen Creemee Company as a road-side eatery, Menard wanted to reimagine the historic dessert.

"I really saw an opportunity to do something completely different and something that I didn't see a lot of people doing at the time in this snack bar realm," Menard said.

Canteen Creemee always has chocolate and maple, but they pride themselves on seasonal flavors such as basil, honey lemon, blueberry, strawberry and coffee, Menard said. "Sometimes even vanilla makes it into the mix," he added.

Shiretown carries the classic vanilla and chocolate flavors with a variety of topping options. . They also carry maple coated walnuts, a special product from Vermont Trade Winds Farm in Shoreham.

While this is Shiretown's offering for people wanting the classic maple creemee fix, Archembeault said he actually recommends Burnham Maple Farm and Market on Route 7 for people searching for a classic maple creemee.

Not every dessert comes with such a lengthy history, but it makes for an even tastier experience. Whether you are craving a vanilla creemee with rainbow sprinkles — Archambeault's favorite — or trying something new, there is a creemee for everyone in Middlebury.

Skiles Roberts-Salvador/The Middlebury Campus

The power of a feminist mini golf course

Op-Ed

El Fahey is a member of the class of 2026. Fahey is a member of GSFS 329 "Reproductive Justice," a class that has worked to produce mini golf course content.

"A Feminist Mini Golf Course? What's that?"

I know. It sounds jarring, goofy and even a little laughable at first glance. But my question is this: Can't a project be goofy and educational at the same time? The creators of the first-ever Reproductive Justice Mini Golf Course experimented with this question and confidently said, "yes."

As a first year student, I joined Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies professor Carly Thomsen's Politics of Reproduction class because I wanted to learn more about abortion rights and how I can be a better activist in this regard. I never thought I would be contributing to a mini golf course and creating meaningful feminist art for everyone to see. However, by learning about feminist approaches to enact social change in this class, I've realized that one of the most powerful ways to achieve justice is through the simple act of starting the conversation. And an effective way to do that is through art and games. And that is exactly what this upcoming event is about.

As fun and simple as mini golf may be, we also built this course for an educational purpose. It is meant to inspire people to learn more about reproductive justice issues. Reproductive justice is more than just advocating for the legal right to choose if you want an abortion. Instead, reproductive justice activism focuses on ensuring access to abortion and reproductive health care for everyone. This language departs from the often-used, yet outdated terminology of "pro-choice" because choice does not necessarily equate to autonomy, equality or justice in America. For example, even if a woman may have the "choice" to decide if she wants an abortion, she may not, for a number of reasons, have access to one. This new framework recognizes other social justice issues that impede people's abilities to have and raise children they want. We aim to fight for granting every woman the opportunity to a self-directed and fulfilling reproductive life unencumbered by legal, social or financial barriers.

Professor Thomsen is the mastermind behind the feminist mini golf project. Collaboration has been key to our getting this mini golf course built. Colin Boyd, a technician in Studio Art, co-developed and is co-teaching with Thomsen the Feminist Building class that is constructing the mini golf course. Rayn Bumstead, a Midd alum, is the project's Director of Design. Students in David Miranda-Hardy's Film and Media Studies class are making videos to be incorporated into the course. And the peers in my class have been generating a lot of educational content and art, which will be featured at the physical mini golf course, as well as on the project website. Through these collaborations, me and a group of MiddKids who share the same passions helped bring the Reproductive Justice Mini Golf Course to life!

The interactive game consists of 11 holes, each dedicated to different barriers affecting reproductive autonomy today. Examples of the holes include incarceration, sexual education, reproductive technology and Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs). This project allows participants to better understand the different obstacles that women must face before getting an abortion while simultaneously fostering a fun environment where people can play a game and educate themselves.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
MINI GOLF
GRAND OPENING
FRIDAY MAY 12, 2023
4-5:30PM
KENYON ARENA
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE, VERMONT
SUPPORTED BY GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND FEMINIST STUDIES, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, FEMINIST RESOURCE CENTER AT CHELLIS HOUSE, GENSLER FAMILY FUND, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE ARTS, CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, INNOVATION HUB, FILM & MEDIA STUDIES, ADA HO FUND, AXINN CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES, MIDD.DATA, VERMONT WORKS PROVIDENCE COLLEGE, HAMILTON COLLEGE, & MSU DENVER

Courtesy of El Fahey

Reproductive justice mini golf poster.

I've learned through this semester-long collaborative project that everyone's individual hard work and dedication has contributed to our cumulative knowledge and passion for reproductive justice activism. In my class, we have learned how to use Feminist and Queer Studies approaches, which center gender, race, class, and sexuality, in our understanding of reproductive justice. With the goals of social change and learning how to produce public-facing content in a feminist way, we created many forms of art, through painting, sculpting, building, or even social media infographics.

I believe there is something truly special about creating art in a variety of mediums to get people to talk about serious, life-altering topics in today's world. It is tough at times to be open-minded about certain issues and trying to understand the complexities of their impact. But projects like the mini golf course strive to create a world through art and a mindless game to help you become more comfortable having these conversations and to become a better activist.

So, join the action. I urge you to learn about reproductive justice, resist and fight against restrictions on women's bodies. But simultaneously still have fun! Feminism is supposed to be public, joyful and collaborative. It is meant to spark conversations and shift our thinking. And this is exactly what we hope the Reproductive Justice Mini Golf Course will do. To reiterate, I know it sounds a little goofy, but it definitely grabbed your attention, right?

The grand opening of the Feminist Mini Golf Course is May 12 4-5:30 at Kenyon Arena. For more information and to see progress on the course, follow @feministmingolf on Instagram.

The urgent need for Migrant Justice: The systemic oppression of migrant workers in Addison County and a fight for visibility

Op-Ed

Damaras Neaves is the president of Juntos and a member of the class of 2024. Laura Rivera is the vice president of Juntos and a member of the class of 2023.

Courtesy of Juntos

Students and community members attending and listening to Migrant Justice's Milk with Diginity presentation.

Middlebury, Vt. is a small, idyllic town nestled in the Green Mountains. Despite its serene exterior, hundreds of migrant workers are facing deplorable working and living conditions that remain invisible to our community. Migrant workers play a critical role in the state's agricultural industry, supporting Vermont brands like Ben & Jerry's and Cabot Cheese. They are employed by over half of all Vermont farms, often live in unsafe and exploitative conditions and lack access to basic rights and protections that many of us take for granted. We argue that it is the responsibility of our Middlebury community to ensure that their voices are heard and their rights are recognized. As members of Juntos, the student-migrant solidarity network on campus, we aim to lead this effort.

> The growing size of Evo has changed the atmosphere of the troupe for its members and audiences. Building the size of the group has allowed the troupe to further embody its mission of inclusivity and diversity.

Founded on the principle of solidarity, Juntos has been working relentlessly to provide essential services to the migrant community in Addison County, including English tutoring lessons, interpretation and transportation services and community activities, such as friendly soccer games and Día de los Muertos celebrations. Originally inspired by a class taught by Professor Gloria González Zenteno in 2006, Juntos became its own student-led Community Engaged Organization in 2009. Since then, Juntos has made it its mission to provide services and resources to the migrant community. This includes free, personalized English lessons through the Compañeros Program, partnerships with external community organizations, namely Addison Allies, the Open Door Clinic and Migrant Justice to deliver activism and volunteer opportunities to the college community, and events programming that aims to bridge the gap between the college community and the migrant community.

Despite the challenges posed by Covid-19, we have been able to continue our work and make significant progress in supporting our migrant community. One example of this is hosting the Juntos tradition called Stories that Migrate, an event where students, staff, faculty and community members can share and hear experiences as they relate to migration. We also collaborate with the Mexican Consulate to find student volunteers for the consulate's annual visit to Middlebury. This year, we also held a winter clothing drive in collaboration with Addison Allies to donate clothing to local migrant families and began a partnership with Ilsley Public Library in an effort to make the library a more inviting space for the Spanish-speaking migrant community. Most recently, we hosted Migrant Justice during their Organizing Tour for the Milk with Dignity Campaign in April. We are proud of how far we have come, but our work is not over.

As the recent Migrant Justice talk that Juntos facilitated this past week showed us, immigrants are left out of ways to redress their grievances because of their work schedules, language barriers, and immigration status. In 2014, Migrant Justice conducted a survey that found that "40 percent of farmworkers are paid less than the Vermont minimum wage; 40 percent have no days off; 28 percent routinely work seven hours or more without a break to eat; 20 percent have their pay illegally withheld; 15 percent do not have eight consecutive hours off, per day, to sleep; and 15 percent live in overcrowded housing and 15 percent have inadequate heat." These rampant abuses were confirmed by a 2021 study carried out by UVM professor Bindu Panikkar and researcher Mary-Kate Barrett that emphasized the extent to which workers are subject to preventable injuries and accidents.

The economic distress migrant workers experience is compounded with serious health and safety risks that endanger workers' well being and lives. The very Migrant Justice movement was started after a 17-year old worker named José Obeth Santiz Cruz tragically died because of employee negligence. The Milk with Dignity campaign aims to build a movement of farmworkers and allies calling on dairy companies to ensure respect for human rights in their supply chains by joining the Spring 2023 worker-driven Milk with Dignity Program. The campaign seeks to establish fair labor standards and safe working conditions for dairy migrant farm workers; it was successful at getting Ben & Jerry's to sign on in 2019 after 3 years of persistent lobbying. Today, we join Milk with Dignity and ask Hannaford to take responsibility and join the movement to protect human rights.

As a student-run organization, we can only do so much. While our board and volunteers who give their time and energy to this cause have been essential, we have a long way to go. Migrant justice remains a critical issue, and we must continue to spread awareness about the hardships that migrant workers and the larger migrant community face. We need the support of everyone, particularly those who share our values and our commitment to justice and the migrants who contribute so much to our community.

If you are a Middlebury student or community member who is passionate about migrant justice, there are many ways you can help. Supporting organizations like Juntos, Addison Allies, Open Door Clinic, Migrant Justice and local migrant chefs by volunteering your time and skills and becoming a fierce advocate for human rights is one place to start. As the semester is ending, Juntos is looking for the next wave of dedicated students who wish to be leaders of social change and are interested in working with the migrant community. Joining any of our three branches and leading projects and initiatives could help us get one step closer to meeting the needs of our essential, vibrant migrant community.

IT'S TIME TO RETHINK MIDDLEBURY'S HONOR CODE

Editorial

This editorial represents the opinion of The Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.

Of the 1,112 students surveyed by this year's Zeitgeist, two-thirds admitted to breaking the Honor Code, in which students affirm that they have not given nor received unauthorized aid on a given assignment. The vast majority of cases involve using aids such as Google Translate, Sparknotes or calculators on assignments where their use is not allowed. The second most common violation was cheating on exams, and the third was using ChatGPT and other unauthorized AI tools.

The Honor Code as it currently stands clearly does not effectively deter students from cheating, nor does it inspire commitment to the ideals it is meant to represent such as integrity and trust. In light of the upcoming review of the Honor Code next year, we want to embrace the spirit of this year's Zeitgeist — recalibrate — and consider recalibrating our school's conception of academic integrity.

In the spirit of this theme, we feel that this is a moment that calls for the rethinking of the Honor Code. Zeitgeist statistics from previous years and anecdotes from board members ultimately reveal the inadequacies of the honor code as it currently exists.

There are many possible reasons why the Honor Code isn't working: the immense pressure to keep afloat academically and the asynchronous teaching made cheating easier, just to name a few. Regardless of each individual's intention or reasons, there is clearly a culture that prevents the construction of mutual trust between professors and students.

The question then becomes, how can we fix it? Although we do not have all the answers, we hope that by sharing some observations and suggestions, we can begin considering recalibrating the Honor Code ahead of next year's review process.

Cheating may also arise from the vague parameters of the Honor Code, which lead different departments to implement it differently. For example, although proctored exams are explicitly prohibited in the Honor Code, the Economics department is an exception in that professors are permitted to proctor exams. The department is so concerned about cheating that they disallow the use of personal calculators on exams, and distribute a department set for students to use. In theory, the role of the Honor Code is to facilitate a sense of mutual trust between students and professors. But the Economics department's rules demonstrate how the system of trust between students and professors — a system that exists to provide both with flexibility — has completely broken down.

Finally, it may simply be the case that students don't believe in the Honor Code. Some board members reported attending high schools with far stricter honor codes than Middlebury, and noted that they were also adhered to far more strictly than at Middlebury. This supports the notion that if students don't believe in the Honor Code, they won't follow it. Consequently, other students may choose not to follow it if they think others aren't following it. This creates the culture and cycle of cheating currently plaguing academics at Middlebury, one that becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

For starters, we may need to reevaluate what we consider an Honor Code violation. The term "unauthorized aid" may prove confusing to some students who encounter the Honor Code system for the first time. A possible method for evaluating the Honor Code may be asking whether or not a particular type of violation is ultimately helping or harming students' learning. We should actively think about the Honor Code in a changing context: Professors still hold diverse opinions on incorporating ChatGPT, so perhaps it is premature to consider AI chatbots unauthorized aid across the board.

Another possible solution would be to make extensions more easily accessible across all academic departments. Although most professors are generous in their extension policies, some students may be disincentivized to explore this option because of the cumbersome administrative hoops they must jump through to attain one. It's also possible some students feel a stigma around extensions, and eliminating administrative barriers to make it a more casual process may help to normalize seeking help in this form. Simply put, students need to give professors a reason to trust them, and professors need to fulfill their promises of trust. The Honor Code is a two-way street, and it can only be rebuilt with work from each side.

Additionally, we should consider more widely implementing academic assessments that include corrections and revisions, so that students have the opportunity to revisit the material they missed and learn from mistakes. One student on the board noted they felt they had learned the most they ever had in a Middlebury class that was structured this way because it allowed them to focus on the course content without obsessing over the letter grade.

With the aforementioned review of the Honor Code in mind, we think it is important to note that we do think that this policy and its principles have an important place at Middlebury. One board member reported being granted the opportunity to postpone an exam since they were sick. Although the professor didn't have time to write a new version — their usual policy — they still allowed the student to postpone despite having already released the answer key. Such trust represents the Honor Code at its best.

Additionally, although the vagueness of the Honor Code may result in less strict adherence, we also feel that this quality is in the spirit of mutual trust between professors and students, and is an honorable ideal to aspire to; one that we hope to achieve at Middlebury.

The Honor Code is only effective when we all have a reason to believe that academic integrity and honesty should be a part of our culture at Middlebury. If we expect flexible policies and honorable behavior in the future, we need to recognize the current failure of our Honor Code system and strive to create a culture built on mutual trust and honesty at Middlebury.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE FASHION AT MIDDLEBURY

Notes from the Desk

Libby Scaperotta is an Opinions Editor for The Campus, Editor-in-Chief of Clover magazine and member of the class of 2024.

Repairing and upcycling clothing was one of the first hobbies that got me interested in fashion. And, to be completely honest, I know nothing about fashion. Growing up on a farm, my only sense of style during childhood was pairing muck boots with a pink dress. The majority of my wardrobe was hand-me-downs from cousins or neighbors that never quite fit right. In an effort to curate outfits that actually fit me, I learned how to use a sewing machine. I started by hemming pants or taking in the waist of jeans, but this quickly evolved into completely transforming clothes. I fell in love with upcycling, the process of creating new designs from the clothes you already have, without even knowing its benefits — I just wanted a cute shirt without buying one.

At Middlebury, once my friends found out I could sew, I became inundated with texts asking me to patch a pair of jeans or alter a top. Upcycling and repairing clothing is crucial to capitalizing on the longevity of clothing and avoiding the wasteful process of buying something new. There is an obvious interest in this at Middlebury, and I hope students find an outlet for this interest to grow further.

Looking around a classroom at Middlebury, it's pretty easy to become distracted by the screen in front of you as someone scrolls through an online store. We see people every day picking up packages of their freshly ordered clothes or shoes. We all do it. We all see it. We live in a consumer-based culture that runs rampant in Middlebury.

The dangers of fast fashion and a "buy-new" society are well-known and are often discussed at Middlebury. We know all too well the concerns associated with the ethics of many clothing brands, the cost barriers to "better, more sustainable" brands, and the horrors of the environmental consequences of the fashion industry. Yet, many of us still find ourselves stuck in the lure of buying something new every time we see a trend pop up.

Still, thrifting culture is alive and well here, as I expect is the case among many liberal arts colleges. The trendiness of "vintage" or "distressed" clothes has led many to the doors of a thrift shop. Although this is not always motivated by a desire to pursue less harmful forms of fashion, it is still a welcome shift. Thrifting and secondhand clothing shopping are much more sustainable methods for getting in your "retail fix" and avoid many of the woes of consumption, although it is not devoid of its own problems.

What I would love to see at Middlebury is a culture that supports slow fashion, recycling or upcycling clothing, and more clothing swaps. Secondhand shopping is just the beginning, but I hope to see a future at Middlebury where students repair their clothing or trade items with friends before ordering something new.

The Clover Magazine Consignment Shop this past weekend was a great opportunity for both buyers and sellers. It allowed many to clear out their closets and ensure their clothing will be headed to another great home. For buyers, it's a chance to get something new out of something old. Secondhand shopping is a much more sustainable alternative to buying new clothes, and a more exciting one. Sorting through the rack and finding a gem feels a little bit like a treasure hunt. As the current Editor-in-Chief, I have been so excited about Clover's work to support sustainable fashion on campus.

Clover hopes to continue to hold events like these in order to support a sustainable fashion culture on campus. Stay tuned for more consignment pop-ups and upcycling workshops in the future.

And, if secondhand fashion is of interest to you, be sure to check out several of the consignment shops in and around Middlebury. If there's something online you want, first check and see if you can find a lightly used version — you might even like it more.

COURTESY OF CLOVER MAGAZINE

Consignment shop poster.

@middleburycampus

@middcampus

The Middlebury Campus

WHY YOU SHOULD VOLUNTEER AT HOMEWARD BOUND

Notes from the Desk

Bella Burke *is an opinions editor and a member of the class of 2023.5*

Courtesy of Bella Burke

Bella and Lillith going on a walk around Middlebury.

If you read my last op-ed, you know I love animals. After growing up with at least one pet in the house at all times, coming to college with little-to-no animal interaction was a hard adjustment. These feelings were exacerbated by the passing of my family's beloved bulldog a few months ago which — as I'm sure many of you can relate — has been really hard. That's why when Noah Osher '23.5 told me about Homeward Bound, Addison County's humane society, I had my volunteer application submitted within 24 hours. It has been one of the best decisions I've made since starting my college career.

The process to become a volunteer could not have been easier. I submitted my application over the weekend, and by first thing Monday morning, Lauren Peterson, the Volunteer and Foster Coordinator, had already sent over a few forms and trained me in that same afternoon.

At first, I was worried about volunteering at Homeward Bound because I thought it would be sad. Honestly, it is. It shatters my heart to know that the animals in the shelter don't yet have a place to call home or a family to love them. But choosing not to volunteer because you don't want to confront this reality does not mean that this reality does not exist. At least by volunteering, you can help improve these animals' lives before they find their forever homes.

Likewise, watching animals get adopted eases the heartache. Last week, I walked a sweet and playful seven(ish)-year-old dog named Lulu. My heart sank when I had to put her back in her kennel (even though it's filled with toys and a comfy bed) after our walk was over. But the very next day, I received a text from Lauren saying that she had been adopted. I also walked Skippy, a three(ish)-year-old ball of joy, and he was officially adopted the same week. Hearing the news of Lulu and Skippy's adoptions were some of the most joyful moments of my semester.

Lillith is another sweetheart I met at Homeward Bound. She's a loving, energetic, and cuddly two(ish)-year-old pitbull mix that I immediately fell in love with. I walked her for the first time last week and told Lauren that same day that Mari Nakamura '23.5 — another Homeward Bound volunteer/my roommate — and I were interested in fostering her until she got adopted. Again, this process was quite simple. All we had to do was sign a few forms and get our landlord on board, and roughly 24 hours later, Lillith came home with us.

Fostering Lillith was one of the most fun and rewarding things I've done here at Middlebury (check out the Homeward Bound Facebook page for photos). We walked her around town with a vest that says "adopt me" and had a picnic at the Knoll where I slipped her a few crackers and played with her toys. After that, we watched TV on the couch and she curled up on me like the oversized lapdog she is. When it was time for bed, she snuggled in and we shared a pillow all night long.

Coincidentally, the same day we brought her home, the shelter received a call from a family interested in adopting Lillith, so we brought her in to meet them the next day. Mari and I were able to draw on our foster experience to explain what a great dog she is in a home environment, which helped persuade the family to take her in on a trial-basis that will hopefully lead to her official adoption. I cried when they drove away, in part because I wished that I could have been the one to adopt her, but mostly because I was so happy that she had likely found her forever home. If you're interested in fostering or hosting an animal for a sleepover and your living situation permits it, I could not recommend it more.

Although the semester is coming to a close, fostering/volunteering would be a perfect opportunity for those staying in Middlebury over the summer, and it is definitely something to keep in mind for next year. If you love animals and are looking to share in some experiences like these, it would be a great fit for you. They have several volunteer opportunities that suit a variety of preferences. I love being a dog-walker, but there are other positions oriented around cats and smaller animals. The minimum time commitment is just one hour per week — perfect for students busy with coursework, extracurriculars and jobs. Furthermore, if you choose to be a dog-walker, it's a great way to get your steps in and spend some time outdoors with a furry friend. Volunteers can also take dogs on hikes, and they're soon starting a program in which volunteers can take dogs for shorter runs.

You could also help out by being on-call for community events. Just last week, Homeward Bound had a great fundraising event at the Marquis Theater. Volunteering could also include clerical work for in-shelter events or fundraising programs. Or, you could volunteer to take pictures of the animals to populate the Homeward Bound social media feeds.

If you can't commit to volunteering but still want to help, visit the wish list on the Homeward Bound website and consider making a donation. Pay special attention to the kitten section, as kitten season is already off to a busy start. You could also host your own fundraiser using your own ideas — just contact Homeward Bound for logos and/or assistance.

In one way or another, I hope that you will consider donating your time or resources to Homeward Bound. The animals need it, and you'll have fun doing it. For more information/questions/concerns, please reach out to Lauren Peterson, Volunteer and Foster Coordinator, at Volunteer@homewardboundanimals.org.

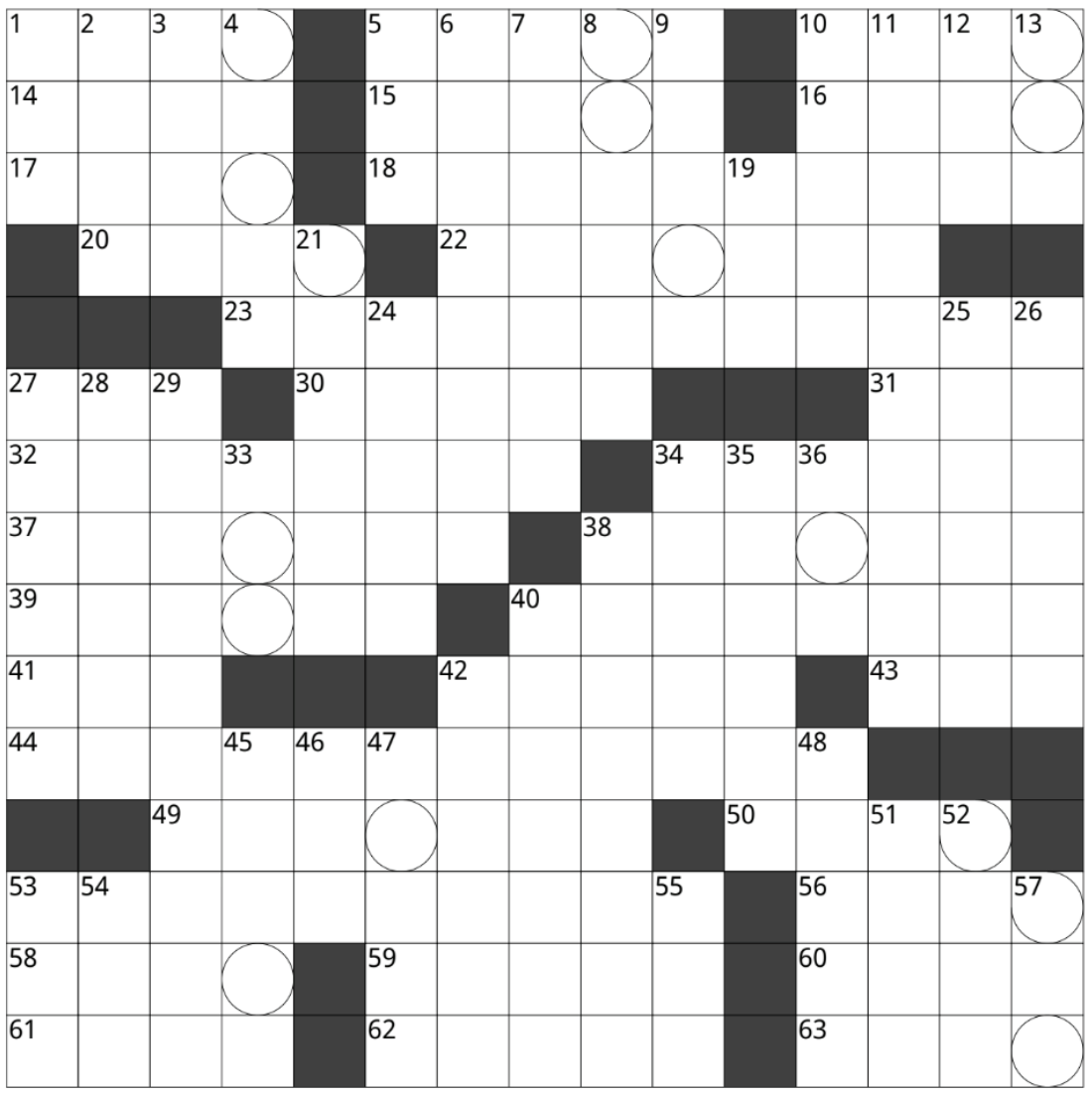
HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

The Campus accepts submissions of opinions, reflections and letters to the editor from all members of our community, every week. Pieces from students, staff and faculty are all welcomed for consideration.

Email **llaesch@middlebury.edu** with submissions.

CROSSWORD FOR YOU!!!

By JOSH HARKINS & AARON COHEN
Puzzle Master & Contributing Puzzler



Across

1 *Synonym for "yada" when tripled, this is
5 *In brainstorming sessions, these arise
10 *Informal pricing words, these are
14 Word with on or off
15 *In "The Sound of Music," featured, this family is (with von)
16 *Before river or Susan, this word is
17 *In Israel, produced, these guns are
18 Dali's discipline
20 *Helper, this person is (abbr.)
22 *Humble, this type of person is not
23 Princess Leia's only hope
27 One of two types of clues in this puz.
30 Ensnares
31 Fruit in a popular Nabisco bar
32 Cubs' supporters?
34 "Green light!"
37 *The New York Journal, this family published
38 *Slopes, this vehicle climbs
39 *A synonym for empathize, this is
40 Elmo's domain
41 MLB's Braves on the scoreboard
42 Bank holdings, ex.
43 Reggae precursor
44 Start to a greeting for today's holiday or a hint to the message spelled out by the circled letters (and their Yoda-speak clues)
49 *Perfect game descriptor, this is
50 *Candied or boiled, these tubers may be served
53 Echoes, as a point
56 *Rock or rubber, this word follows
58 *In pods, this mammal hunts
59 "If ____," (since nobody else will)
60 "Are you ____ out?"
61 Fall (over)
62 Nasal partitions
63 *This HR rep, Michael Scott hates

Down

1 A/C measure
2 Judy Garland's daughter Minnelli
3 French friends
4 "____ fine," way to describe that charming fellow over there
5 Possessive adjective
6 Reagan's campaigns in Central America
7 Fuzzy hat extension that can be folded up or down
8 Kitchen splatter protectors
9 "Spit it out!"
10 Last name of Ethan and Tim
11 A couple of very good cards
12 Lb. components
13 Michael Douglas character in Ant Man, Hank ____
19 Had
21 Consumption diagnostic, for short
24 More than irked
25 Huge favor
26 59-Across, informally
27 Hindu retreat
28 Tarzan's chimp friend, which becomes a grassland predator when a letter is added to the end
29 Way to describe that charming fellow over there
33 Cup holder
34 Piano or cello: abbr.
35 Warm and cozy
36 Personal ad letters
38 Most safe
40 Inch forward
42 Ski lodge architectural style
45 Wreck, in insurance lingo
46 When doubled, Michael Jackson ad-lib
47 "To ____ human, to forgive divine"
48 Smoking or brushing your teeth, say
51 Hand in Honduras
52 Hoity-toity type
53 1/2 an Asian peninsula, for short
54 Before, palindromically
55 Amtrak stop, abbr.
57 Adjective used in the selling or banning or alcohol

EVOLUTION DANCE CREW'S SATURDAY (R)EVOLUTION

By MIRACLE TAPIA
Journalism Fellow

Evolution Dance Crew (Evo) presented their Spring 2023 show, "Step-Up (R)Evolution," which included dance elements from Afro-Beats, Dancehall, Soca and Bachata styles, on Saturday, April 22 in Wilson Hall.

The night began with an homage to the street-dance film franchise "Step-Up" in the form of a short 7-minute documentary featuring the crew's current members. The opening screen read "Born from a Boombox," which for some represents a lifelong love for dance and for others learning to dance for the first time with Evo. For most, though, it is about building a community that is welcoming of different bodies and finds joy in exchanging culture and learning from others.

As the lights dimmed, co-presidents Amina Matavia '23 and John Bermudez '24 introduced the origins of Evo. Evo was founded in 2014 by a group of students of color who felt excluded by the dance scene at Middlebury. They created their own troupe welcoming all bodies and backgrounds, a mission that the group maintains today. Matavia and Bermudez explained that they were "stepping-up" to their roots this year, not only in technique but also in diversity and numbers.

"As a crew [we] grow and get better but also stay true to our roots which is to be welcoming to dancers of all backgrounds," Matavia said.

This spring, the group had 54 active members and choreographed 29 pieces in the hour and half long show. This included 12 main pieces, 14 transitions, one piece starring only new dancers, one senior piece and one group piece.

> The growing size of Evo has changed the atmosphere of the troupe for its members and audiences. Building the size of the group has allowed the troupe to further embody its mission of inclusivity and diversity.

The growing size of Evo has changed the atmosphere of the troupe for its members and audiences. Building the size of the group has allowed the troupe to further embody its mission of inclusivity and diversity. Casandra Dormeus '25, a dancer who became part of the crew two months ago, recognized this inclusivity and wanted to join because she thought the Evo performance last year proved that the organization is for all bodies and diasporas.

Borrowing from the theme of the show, many pieces incorporated complex foot-work, and a couple of pieces featured dance battles. The cross-cultural exchange of music and dance styles was a testament to the tight-knit community that they built when Evo was created.

Dormeaus said her favorite piece to perform was one of the dance-battle pieces "Soca vs. Dancehall." This dance battle-inspired piece was choreographed by Leigha Francis '25 and Ashley Townsend '25. Francis drew inspiration for her choreography from her own Jamaican culture. "I'm trying to bring a piece of home here and share that with people. Whenever I need to de-stress or miss home I just throw on some Jamaican music," she said.

Before the finale, Evo seniors performed a piece titled "We Are All In This Together." The show concluded with a heartfelt goodbye, as 17 graduating seniors were a part of the spring show. As the lights slowly turned back on, many audience members rushed to congratulate their friends on stage, flowers in hand. The night ended with laughter, tears, gratitude and Evo love.

Courtesy of George Madison

Photo of the Evo crew.

A BRIGHT AND FIERY HALF-LIFE

By JOSHUA GLUCKSMAN
Staff Writer

In "Bright Half-Life," four decades flash back and forth, sometimes within seconds. Swinging between the life stages leading up to marriage and those that come with having kids, the story is a blur. For the weekend of April 27–29 in the Hepburn Zoo, four groups of audiences were taken into the mystifying, unchronological world of the play "Bright Half-Life," where two young-adults-turned-parents experience the beauty and struggle of a 40-plus year relationship. The performance and its production also happened to be Meili Huang '23's senior work in acting, Will Napper '23's senior work in lighting design and Aidan Amster '23.5's senior work in directing — an impressive feat by these three thespians.

Courtesy of Kayla Schwartz

Actors embrace during performance.

Huang and Napper decided to act in the play after having worked together for the past four years, starting in 2019 with their first-year show. For Huang, the play presented a unique challenge to discover who her character Vicky truly is, and let Vicky's relationship with Erica (M Stiffler '23) come to life.

According to the playbill, playwright Tanya Barfield noted that the aim of the play is to highlight relationships, not characters. As a result, while Huang and Stiffler were very focused on their characters' individual identities, Huang also saw how transcendent the story could be through a radical emphasis on Vicky and Erica's relationship.

"The relationship is so universal, despite being with very particular identities on stage, because you can see it play out in any long-term relationship," Huang said.

In the play, lighting accomplishes what rapid set changes typically would. As time switches back and forth and out of order, decades can pass within a line of dialogue leaving no time for a traditional set change. Napper explained how he worked closely with the stage manager to realize the light design.

> "But I also hope that going forward, those involved with the planning and scheduling of drills will take into consideration the performances that so many on our campus put so much time into."

"The playwright said no two transitions can be the same, and I tried to make them distinct as possible. This is a show where I really need to listen to my stage manager," Napper said.

At 8:18 p.m. during the Thursday show, the fire alarm went off in Hepburn Hall. Time stood still for a few seconds as Huang and Stiffler maintained the eye contact necessary for the scene. They non-verbally communicated with a large sigh, a hug and a laugh that they were breaking character as everyone started to evacuate the Hepburn Zoo.

Audience member Arthur Martins '23.5 reflected on the deep nature of how quickly the thoughts of fire when the alarm went off broke the bubble of fantasy that theater brings us into.

"At a time when our stories are under the threat of being interrupted, the beautiful irony was how the fire alarm that stopped from bearing witness to a queer love story brought us together in a beautiful way," Martins said.

Indeed, the sentiment as the actors returned to stage was one unity, and a lighter, less stressful atmosphere emerged within the audience as well as with the two actors.

However, Amster, the play's director, was not informed of the planned fire drill ahead of time.

"I am grateful to have had a cast and crew that quickly and successfully adapted to the circumstances," said Amster. "But I also hope that going forward, those involved with the planning and scheduling of drills will take into consideration the performances that so many on our campus put so much time into."

The play returned to normal, and the second half proved even more powerful than the first, as the children of the couple presented their own joys and stresses. By the end of the play, audience members teared up sharing the sentiments of Vicky and Erica.

JAZZ GREAT ABDULLAH IBRAHIM RETURNS TO MIDDLEBURY

By BRETT SORBO
Staff Writer

To cap off the 103rd season of the Middlebury Performing Arts Series , the college hosted jazz pianist Abdullah Ibrahim and his group Ekaya this past week, who performed in Robison Hall on Saturday, April 29.

This was Ibrahim's third time at Middlebury, having previously performed in the Chapel in October 1987 and September 1992. The Campus reviewed his performances both years, and Director of the Performing Arts Series Allison Coyne Carroll quoted the articles in her introduction, reading that The Campus had "enjoyed and appreciated Ibrahim's virtuosity" and that "Ibrahim captivated the sold-out crowd."

"Having an NEA Jazz Master join us for 3 days was delightful," Director of Jazz Activities Dick Forman said. "He gave us a jazz history course based on his own experiences."

Ibrahim (formerly known as Dollar Brand) was born in Cape Town, South Africa in 1934. From an early age, Ibrahim tuned into the various sounds of his early youth, including Christian hymns, African-American gospel tunes and Indian ragas.

The concert program described the Cape Town of Ibrahim's childhood as "a melting-pot of cultural influences, [where] the young [Ibrahim] was exposed to American jazz, township jive, CapeMalay music and classical music." As a result, his music encompasses all of these styles.

As a young man, much of Ibrahim's musical output was a response to South Africa's struggle with Apartheid. In the late 1950s, Ibrahim performed and recorded with a group called the Jazz Epistles, which included legendary trumpeter Hugh Masekela. After the Sharpeville Massacre in March 1960, activist musicians and artists suffered from harsher laws against creative expression. In order to preserve his artistic message, Ibrahim moved to Europe in 1962, where he remained an outspoken force against apartheid.

Ibrahim visited several of Middlebury's musical ensembles this week, including the Afropop band, the jazz workshop and Collaborative Improvisation course taught by Assistant Professor of Music Matthew Evan Taylor.

Ibrahim's demeanor is gentle and meditative, which is precisely what captivated students this time around. Prior Ibrahim's "master classes," dance department accompanist (and longtime friend of Ibrahim's) Deborah Felmeth advised that "students will have to lean in to hear and to follow, for [Ibrahim] is a true griot who will offer into the room ideas, thoughts, stories that they'll spend years pondering."

One of the first things Ibrahim told us was that "music is a matter of life and death." Beyond that, he stated that music is an access point to "parallel universes," which we cannot access in our human endeavors. To this wisdom, Ibrahim shared stories from his interactions with his elders. He recalled having a session with one elder when suddenly a snake appeared, to whom the elder joked, "I thought I told you not to come back here." The elder then started to breathe rhythmically and Ibrahim followed, gradually feeling the sensation of levitation. Ibrahim replicated this breathing during his master classes.

"He is a musical master," Music Department Chair Damascus Kafumbe said. "He is respectful, loving, kind and brings out the best in his musical disciples."

Both Ibrahim's person and music exude a deep spirituality, one for which any verbal language is an insufficient translator. There is a magnetism to his being: the deliberate pace of his speech, the steadiness of his eyes and the earnestness of his hearty laugh.

To many of our surprises, Ibrahim stated that "it's not about the music." He then gave us this simple advice: "Invest in loss." The room was stupefied while Ibrahim smiled.

On stage, Ibrahim and Ekaya — which consists of Cleave Guyton (alto saxophone/flute/piccolo/clarinet), Lance Bryant (tenor saxophone), Joshua Lee (baritone saxophone), Noah Jackson (cello/bass) and Will Terrill (drums) — played many of Ibrahim's original compositions, including songs from his most recent LPs, "Dream Time" (2019) and "Solotude" (2021).

The sold-out crowd got to their feet when Ibrahim entered, bowing to us from the piano with his hands together. He then took us through an introductory suite on solo piano, using his composition "Blue Bolero" as a thematic reprise.

As Ekaya joined the stage, Ibrahim took on more of a conductor's role, providing piano parts only when punctuating a musical phrase or transitioning between songs. During the show, band members would look at Ibrahim, who, attentive at the piano bench, would give directions with his eyes — or an occasional grunt.

Courtesy Photo

Abdullah Ibrahim returns to Middlebury for the third time.

While Ibrahim's recent compositions are reflective and explorative, the performance featured pieces that were harmonically dissonant and melodically angular, reflecting the styles of Thelonious Monk or Eric Dolphy (Ibrahim introduced one song by referencing Monk's tune "Light Blue"). The group also performed one of Ibrahim's hallmark compositions, "Water from an Ancient Well."

After the performance, Ibrahim and Ekaya mixed with audience members downstairs in the Mahaney Arts Center for a brief reception. Still pondering Ibrahim's confusing wisdom about loss from a few days earlier, Afropop keyboardist Scott Li '23.5 asked the pianist to clarify what he meant.

"He said that to 'invest in loss' means to put effort into doing something and not to expect a benefit or a return," Li said. "In this way, you cut off your desire and anger."

Ibrahim's music reflects a Taoist sagacity. In 2017, New York Times reporter Giovanni Russonello described Ibrahim's soul. "Mr. Ibrahim... seems to suggest that escape or transcendence could almost be possible," Russonello writes. "But then there's the inevitable longing for home, for harmony, for rest. He lives in that balance."

To Ibrahim, music does not exist without his humanity. Accordingly, investing in loss means to lean into — not avoid — the challenges of being human. In our sessions, Ibrahim taught us that we are capable of great forgiveness.

Two weeks ago, Ibrahim performed at Dartmouth College, and during the post-reception a girl came up to him wearing a shirt that said "Pretoria," the city which is the seat of South Africa's executive branch. To Ibrahim, Pretoria signifies the trauma of Apartheid, a time when the government sent its police force (ordered from Pretoria) to kill innocent people. But Ibrahim noticed tears in the girl's eyes, and the two of them shared a tender moment.

At 88 years old, Abdullah Ibrahim is still collecting parables for us — stories for how we can overcome ourselves and connect with the spirits within and beyond us. Middlebury is fortunate to have had his sounds reverberate among us.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHERE WE WERE ON MAY 1?

By ELIZA KING FREEDMAN & MAGGIE BRYAN
Senior Arts & Culture Editor & Arts & Culture Editor

Courtesy Photos

Janelle Monae (left) and Camila Morrone (right) pose at the Met Gala Red Carpet on Monday May 1.

For many, May 1, simply marks the first day of the month, but for us, May 1 represents a little annual dinner party that our friends like to throw. Some may call it the pinnacle of fashion, to others it's another day in the Big Apple, and to a few, it's the Met Gala.

This year the theme was "in honor of Karl," not in reference to the Middlebury nordic skier who spells it with a C, but to Karl Lagerfeld, the late icon of several fashion houses including Chloé, Balmain, Patou and most famously, Chanel. We would be remiss to ignore that Karl Lagerfeld is questionable in the realm of personality, but this article would be too long and boring if we talked about that, so we aren't going to. Now onto the red, white and blue (?) carpet.

Brace yourselves, as we (Maggie Bryan and Eliza King Freedman) go head-to-head publicly for the first and only time in The Campus, as we argue over our opinions on the various looks that we stayed up too late scrolling through on Vogue.com this past Monday night. Should we invigorate you enough to participate in our discourse, voting will take place on the Middlebury Campus Instagram.

Eliza's Best Dressed: Janelle Monae

Janelle Monae's dress was not one, not two, but three layers that unraveled to reveal a diamond-encrusted hoop dress that showcased the process of creating haute couture and the character that has been Chanel for decades. Dressed in Thom Browne, Monae's get-up was reminiscent of the designer's iconic suits. But the layers of the black and white coat, the long white shirt dress and the extravagant play on a pre-19th century hoop skirt all contributed to a look that was on-theme and original in its own right. Monae attended her first Met Gala wearing Chanel in 2011 with Karl Lagerfeld, so she called this a "full-circle moment."

Maggie's Best Dressed: Camilla Morone

As Eliza's commentary proves, many Met Gala observers amateurishly appreciate maximalist, over-the-top and overall chaotic looks. Yet as only the trained fashion critic's eye knows, sometimes less is more. Morrone stunned in a sleek black Rodarte gown, topped with a simple lace white collar, reminiscent of the contrasting collars Lagerfeld himself famously loved. Morrone didn't need three layers, an outfit change or 50,000 pearls to stand out. For this, and for her performance in "Daisy Jones and the Six," Morrone has won my heart.

Eliza's Worst Dressed: Pedro Pascal

Why did this man wear shorts to the Met Gala? It was almost like it was his first time attending... oh wait, it was! Despite my personal efforts to get past this, I cannot get behind the Valentino look of black shorts with high black socks. And if only he had redeemed himself in the collar, or even the color, but the red trench-like coat stands out on the carpet and takes away from the beautiful outfits we spent the night staring at. To top it all off, despite my love for his character Javier Peña, I haven't seen The Last of Us, so Pedro Pascal was less of an on-the-mind celebrity and more of a shocking leg-bearer that I wasn't ready to witness last night.

Maggie's Worst Dressed: Kylie Jenner

A far cry from a Karl Lagerfeld homage, Kylie Jenner's bright red, Haider Ackermann for Jean Paul Gaultier gown looked like it was from Shein. Tacky cutouts and messy, distasteful side parts don't belong at the Met Gala, and they certainly didn't make Kylie's divergence from theme worth it. Considering her dress last year was indisputably off-theme and that she faced the risk of un-invitation this year, she could have, she should have, I wish she had, done better.

Eliza's Most Missed: Timothee Chalamet

Supposedly too busy doing press for his upcoming film in the Dune series, Timothee Chalamet missed the Met for the second year in a row, despite having been a Chair of the Gala in 2021. Chalamet arrived on the film scene in "Lady Bird" in 2017, and since then he has proven not only to be a good actor but also to be fashionable. One cannot be so perfect and then slip out of the public eye like this. I hereby out myself as a Chalamet fan girl in hopes that you, dear reader, will join me in putting a spoon underneath my bed pillow each night for the next year, willing our dear boy to return to the Met steps this next May.

Maggie's Most Missed: Taylor Swift

Yes I've been impressed by her past Met Gala looks, yes I wanted red-carpet redemption from her underwhelming Grammy's ensemble, and yes, I wanted a tiny break from all the Era's tour talk. But as someone who listened to "High Infidelity," one of Swift's songs rumored to be about cheating on her boyfriends at the Met Gala, countless times over the weekend, I mostly wanted more messy, lyric-worthy moments. Be it at the expense of Swift's personal relationships or the integrity of the Gala as a whole, I was ready for her to stir the pot.

Eliza's Most Confusing: Kim Kardashian

Kim's Schiaparelli dress simply confused me. I know that pearls were Lagerfeld's whole shtick — but to just throw on layers upon layers of pearl necklaces does not feel very Met to me... Especially coming from Kim Kardashian, of the Kardashian Family that was notoriously almost not invited to the Met Gala this year. Additionally, her up-do and choker necklace was very much giving 2000's, and not in a cool Y-2K way. And coupled with Pete's struggle to perform on the carpet ("amateurishly" covered by Maggie above), it becomes clear that the recently broken-up duo needs each other more than we thought.

Maggie's Most Confusing: Pete Davidson

Pete Davidson has never, will never, been destined for the red carpet. He showed up Monday night wearing a curious ensemble that combined a trench coat, a Fendi bucket hat and a necklace straight from a child's dress-up box. It's one that I will proudly, but not negatively, compare to Middlebury wedding attire. And yet, I could have crowned Pete worst dressed, but I didn't. If lacking red-carpet cohesion works for anyone, it's Pete, and it's actually endearing. Despite my existing bewilderment, I would be even more confused if he showed up wearing something presentable. It's Pete!

Despite our differences of opinion on Met Gala fashion, we are still friends. We also have managed to agree on a few things. Namely, the imitations of Lagerfeld's cat, Choupette. There were three, and they all managed to be incredibly creepy (especially Doja Cat's interview with Emma Chamberlain wherein she refused to do anything but meow). Lil Nas X looked more like a snake than a cat, Doja Cat looked like she wanted to be in the movie "Cats" and Jared Leto's interpretation was a little on the nose.

So this is where we leave you. But If this article serves to do anything, we hope to have highlighted the Hunger Games Capitol-like world of fashion and drama that is the Met Gala. As Emma Chamberlain and Jack Harlow would say, "love ya, bye!"

REEL CRITIC: A REVIEW OF "CLOCK"

By ERIC BURCHILL
Digital Director

As a diehard "Glee" fan who dreams of living in a world where Lea Michele isn't the only original Glee Club member who still finds consistent work, I was elated to find out the one and only Dianna Agron would be starring in the brand-new horror movie "Clock."

The film's premise is simple: Ella, played by Agron, is very clear about not wanting to have kids. But facing pressure to beat her biological clock as she nears age 40, Ella decides to enroll in a clinical trial that claims it will induce baby fever. Soon, she realizes that the trial uses sinister techniques to instill the desire to procreate, forcing her to decide if these dark, irreversible consequences are worth having a baby she never originally wanted.

Agron gives a phenomenal, nuanced performance as a woman who never claims to hate kids, but rather recognizes that she already feels fulfilled and wants to avoid bringing a child into a world filled with so much pain. The movie shines the brightest anytime Agron breaks into a monologue, debating what she wants and reckoning with the pressure to conform to societal standards.

Unfortunately, the rest of the cast fell flat, serving as cardboard cutouts in Ella's life instead of genuine human beings with which the audience can connect. The talents of Melora Hardin, who is known for her role "The Office," are wasted as a pseudo-antagonist whose true intentions are never fully revealed. Hardin does her best to portray a sly and slithering villainess, but the screenplay limits her to being a suspense-building firework whose fuse never goes off.

The true villain of the story is Ella's father, who constantly guilts her for not carrying on the family line. Still, his brutal murder at the end of the film didn't feel deserved due to lack of nuanced exploration into the inner workings of their father-daughter relationship.

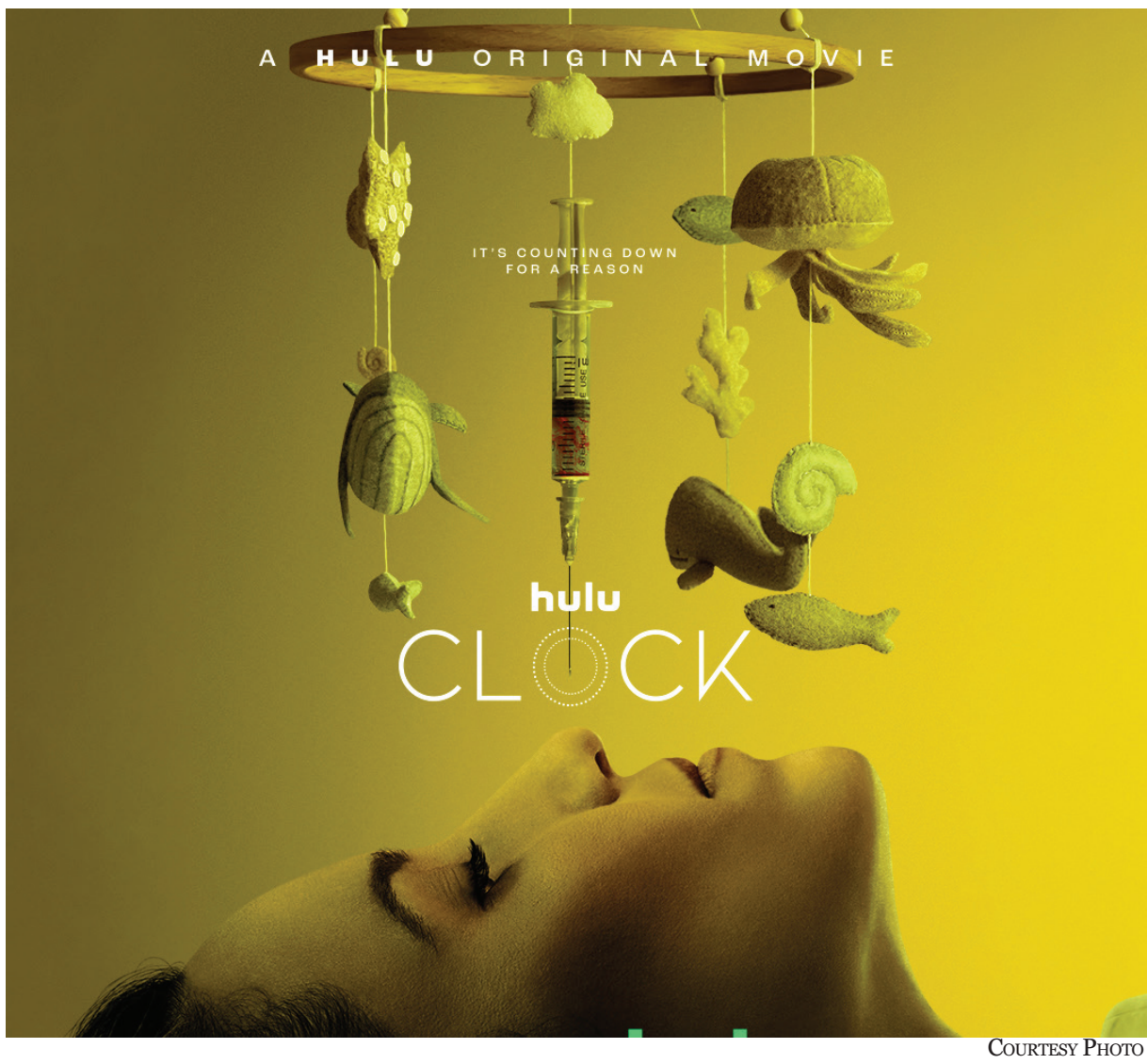
One thing the film does effectively, however, is portraying how baby pressure is placed on women from all parts of their lives: parents, doctors, best friends, the media and more. The most satisfying part of the film is when it is revealed Ella's seemingly-supportive husband was conspiring to have Ella join the clinical trial all along and he is summarily stabbed in a place no man wants to be stabbed.

One of the film's biggest short-comings is that it can't decide what genre it is. Hulu categorizes it as "horror, thriller," but fails to recognize that these are two distinct genres. Sure, thrillers can be scary and horror can be thrilling, but the film doesn't have enough respect for the tropes it employs, so it ends up being a lackluster blend of the two genres. The thriller-heavy first half throws in a cheap jump scare when Ella kills a spider, seemingly to remind us that we are supposed to be scared. In the second half, however, some truly disturbing body horror could scar viewers who didn't realize what kind of movie they signed up for.

An impressive film-making technique the movie pulled off is the use of color, which becomes progressively duller as Ella slips further into medically-induced insanity, an eerie mark of horror. It happens ever so slowly that one doesn't realize it is happening, until the vibrancy suddenly returns at the film's climax, providing viewers with the ultimate dopamine rush.

The whole film is predicated on the idea that women are forced to face the pressure of a biological clock, but it stuffs clock metaphors so far down your throat that you will never want to wear a watch again. The loud ticking noises throughout the film are more grating than convincing, and when Ella gets into a brawl with her family's grandfather clock, it feels silly rather than cathartic.

The film's main message is clear, poignant and effective, but ambition gets the best of it when it tries to battle with existentialism. The film's final scene as Ella meets her very first 'ancestor' – the first fish to ever crawl out of the ocean millions of years ago – is over the top, wacky and undermines the real plight that women have faced for millennia.



Courtesy Photo

One of the film's biggest short-comings is that it can't decide what genre it is.

TRIFECTA OF MIDDLEBURY TEAMS WIN NESCAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

By JACK McGUIRE
Senior Sports Editor

Middlebury athletics saw enormous success this past weekend as the women's track and field team, men's golf team and men's tennis team all won NESCAC championships.

Women's Track and Field

The women's track and field team, competing at Connecticut College's athletic complex, won their second straight NESCAC Championship, accumulating 154 total points.

At the women's meet, 15 Panthers recorded All-NESCAC performances, signifying that they finished in the top three for their respective events. Top performers included Madeline Saunders '25, who was the women's individual discus champion, Cady Barnes '23, who was the runner-up in the long jump (5.50 meters) and triple jump (11.51 meters) and Jaxon Palmer '25, who finished in third place in the women's javelin (34.78 meters).

The team still has a few more competitions after NESCACs. From May 12 to13, the team will compete at the Open New England Championships, and on May 17, members of the team plan to go to the Williams Last Chance Qualifier, giving members one final tuneup and qualification opportunity before the NCAA Championships on May 25 to 26 in Rochester, N.Y.

Men's Tennis

In Williamstown, Mass., the men's tennis team won their third straight NESCAC championship in a 5–4 win against Bowdoin. The team also defeated Colby and Tufts earlier in the weekend to reach the finals.

After losing to Bowdoin 5–4 earlier in the season, the Panthers played strongly to avenge their early season loss. In the final game, Noah Laber '24 battled against tough Bowdoin competition to secure the championship for Middlebury.

Men's Golf

The Middlebury men's golf team dominated in the NESCAC championships this past weekend. The team won the tournament with an enormous 15 stroke lead.

Hogan Beazley '23 and Colin McCaigue '24 both had massive performances. The pair tied for first place in the tournament. Not far behind was Sean McGarrity '23, who came in sixth place with a two day score of 111.

The championship also comes in Coach Bill Beaney's last season at the helm of the golf team. Beaney has been the head men's golf coach since 1988 and has now won 10 men's golf NESCACChampionships. Beaney was also the men's hockey coach from 1987 to 2015, when he led the Panthers to eight NESCAC Championships. He is one of the most successful and decorated coaches in Middlebury Athletics' history.

Select members of the team are now preparing to compete at the NCAA Men's Golf Championships in Nicholasville, Ky. from May 16 to 19.

Courtesy of John Kenny

Members of the women's track and field team celebrate after winning the NESCAC Championship.

Middlebury Equestrian ends a successful season ranked fourth in the region

By TING CUI
Contributing Writer

The Middlebury Equestrian team finished a strong season with several riders reaching the Zone 1 Championship. This is the first season when Middlebury's Equestrian riders qualified for the Regional Finals (Regionals) and Zone Finals (Zones) since 2019.

At Zones, the competition is exponentially tougher compared to regular season shows. Co-Captains Anika Jessup '23 and Sage Mauri '23 placed fifth in Novice and 10th in Limit Fences, respectively — both showing well in their classes.

"Zones are a challenge," Head Coach Kate Selby said. "Schools with huge teams have a much larger pot of riders to choose from. Those that advance to Zones and then Nationals are already riding at a certain level outside of college and generally have more experience. This is mostly not true for our team."

Throughout the season, riders accumulate points at local shows in order to qualify for the Regional Finals in their respective divisions. Under the IHSA, riders must qualify for postseason competitions through a point system. The top two riders in each class of Regionals move on to Zones, and from there, the top two competitors in each class qualify for Nationals. Regionals, Zones and Nationals are all considered postseason shows, and they provide a platform for riders to showcase their skills at increasingly competitive levels.

"It was awesome to be riding against such competitive riders at Zones. We're kind of tucked away up here in Vermont, but it's nice when we get to travel and connect with other schools in our region and other schools in our zone," Mauri said.

Three riders competed in four classes at Regionals in March, which was held at Whishmaker Stables in New Hampshire. Mauri placed second in limit fences, and Jessup won the novice division, securing both advancements to Zones. Maya Henning '25 showed well in a tough class with two spectacular rides in intermediate limit fences and intermediate limit flat. She earned two third-place finishes, narrowly missing out on qualification. In addition, Henning and Jessup, alongside Olivia Rooney '25 and Brenae' Ervin '26 competed in the team cup challenge putting out strong rides.

"Regionals was a lot of fun. We had a double-header show at Whishmaker two weeks before Regionals, so we were pretty used to the facility and the horses. I was really happy with how everyone did," Jessup said.

Middlebury Equestrian has 25 riders from diverse backgrounds with ranging levels of experience. The team rides at Eddy Farm School, located just five minutes from campus, under the guidance of Selby and Assistant Coach and Farm Manager, Margaret Bojanowski. Selby has been coaching the team since its establishment in 1994.

They compete in Zone one, Region two through the International Horse Shows Association (IHSA) — the largest collegiate equestrian sports governing body in the United States. Their zone includes competition against schools throughout the broader New England region, while Regionals involves teams from Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, as well as a team based in Boston.

With the bulk of shows taking place in October and November, the Middlebury Equestrian team is now finishing a very successful season, ranking fourth in the region. Co-Captain Tess Hegarty '25.5 explained that despite not having a fully stacked roster, the team performed exceptionally well and was only bested by schools with larger, well-funded varsity programs. During their regular season shows, 42% of their finishes were first or second, on par with the rate from top schools. Additionally, they were able to fill six out of eight divisions this year, which is an improvement from the five out of eight they filled last year. Their goal is to have a full roster for all eight divisions by next season.

Middlebury Equestrian has grown tremendously over the past year as they worked to return to normalcy following the pandemic.

"During Covid-19, it was pretty challenging to organize team events — even our practices were super limited," Mauri said. "I think this year has been so positive for the team, and I think it's been reflected in our riding and our relationship with our coaches and each other too."

Connection and community have grown alongside the team's competitive success.

For riders, like Henning, who come from cutthroat high school riding programs, the team offers a welcoming and supportive space for students to work towards their personal best and have fun in the process.

"Being able to have that time in my day where I get to go to the barn and do something that I love, and also getting to share that passion with people at this school, that I otherwise wouldn't meet, are my favorite parts of the team," Hegarty said.

As the team has grown, they have become more cohesive.

"I will say, this group has been the most inclusive and cohesive that we've ever had, which is saying a lot," Selby said.

Courtesy of Middlebury Equestrian

Middlebury equestrian team riders Anika Jessup '23 and Sage Mauri '23 at the Zone 1 Championship.

PFL Weekly

By BLAISE SIEFER, ELI DIBARI, MARCO FENGLER, CAPTAIN RUDOLPH
Podcast Hosts

Hogan Beazley '23 tied for first at NESCAC Men's Golf Championships, which helped the team hoist its 10th NESCAC Championship plaque. Beazley, who has lived in Weybridge, Vt for the past nine years, shares more on his decision to go to Middlebury College, his golf development over the past four years and what it means to bring home the championship in Coach Beaney's last season at the helm. Curious to hear Beazley's favorite hole on the Ralph Myhre course? Check out this week's episode to find out!

WOMEN'S LACROSSE ADVANCES TO NESCAC SEMIFINALS

By ETHAN VASHEL
Contributing Writer

The Middlebury women's lacrosse team has strung together yet another undefeated regular season, as they went 15–0 overall and 10–0 in conference.

The Panthers walked into the 2023 campaign looking to defend their 2022 national title, which was one of three times Middlebury has been national champions over their past five seasons (2016, 2019 and 2022). Middlebury, ranked first in the NCAA DIII Women's Lacrosse preseason poll heading into the year and has remained at the helm for the entire season. The Panthers have been so dominant that they won all games with high margins of victory.

Team members mentioned the importance of the depth and ability to adapt to certain in-game adjustments, personnel or scheme wise.

The team also attributes their success to the intensity of their practices, where coaches push the elite defense and offense to compete against one another, while also developing their own camaraderie. They say that as long as each player works together in their own role or niche, the team will produce an overall greater effect than each player could produce individually. Along with their synergy on the field, the team sticks together off the field as well, which builds a certain level of trust amongst the ranks and produces a "get to be there" mentality.

One of the two teams which lost to Middlebury by only six goals was the very opponent Middlebury encountered in the NESCAC Quarterfinals last Saturday, April 29: Bowdoin.

The No. 24 Polar Bears went 6–9 overall in 2023, but that record was not indicative of the threat they posed to the Panthers.

"Everything changes in the playoffs, and anything can happen in this competitive league. Everyone is gunning for us," Anna Spehr '25 said.

As aforementioned, Bowdoin had played tough against Middlebury in their prior meeting on March 8 (15–9) and had two tremendous offensive players, including Sophia Sudano, who has 43 goals. Nevertheless, Middlebury glided to a 16–6 victory behind a seven goal performance from Hope Shue '25 and a 10 save performance from goalie Annie Enrietto '23.

Shue's plethora of goals in the opening game of the NESCAC tournament spoke to a repetitive story seen throughout the 2023 season. The sophomore had a huge year, scoring 46 goals and 59 points in 14 games, ranking her third in goals and fourth in points in the entire NESCAC.

Shue was not the only Panther with a huge offensive season, as Captain Jane Earley '23 led the league with 51 goals and 66 points through 15 games. Earley lived up to her 2022 NESCAC and IWCLA Player of the Year honors, where her 80 goals and 99 points set program records.

Yet, the offense was not the only story of the year for the Panthers, as Middlebury only let in a league best 6.07 goals per game. Enrietto led the effort with good goaltending; her 6.29 goals against average ranked her best in the NESCAC. Defender Erica Barr '23 also played a critical role in the Panthers' success. Barr ranked sev-enth in the NESCAC in ground balls (31), averaging 2.07 per game, and third in the NESCAC in caused turnovers (28), averaging 1.87 per game.

Earley, along with six other seniors, see these playoff games as especially meaningful since it is their last opportunity to play for Middlebury.

"What is so amazing about this group is all they have gone through with Covid-19 canceling two of their seasons," Ciara Murphy '25 said.

The younger players on the team look up to the experiences of the seniors.

"They understand how lucky they are to play lacrosse and have instilled that idea into the whole team," Kelcey Dion '25 said. "Our seniors have done such a great job setting a precedent for the younger players, and they just know what it takes to perform on the biggest of stages. They always hype us up and foster a team environment lacking any sort of hierarchy".

The seniors and rest of the Panthers look to add a few more trophies to their resume before it is all over, as NESCAC tournament play continues for Middlebury this Saturday against Colby at home.

"We control our own fate," Zari Garfield '25 said.

Courtesy of Will Costello

Erica Barr '23 rushes past a defender in the women's lacrosse team's 16–6 win over Bowdoin.